

ALITH  
NOV 56  
57

1 in 1000 cases  
2 link nodes black  
3 Lung  
2



# Annual Report

on the

## Health

of the

County Borough of Wigan

by the

Medical Officer of Health

1955









**ANNUAL REPORT**  
on the  
**HEALTH**  
of the  
**COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN**  
FOR THE YEAR 1955

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J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Vict.).

Medical Officer of Health.

Principal School Medical Officer.

Medical Referee of the Borough Crematorium.





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# **HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955.** (APPOINTED 24TH MAY, 1955).

Chairman	....	....	Councillor J. T. LYNCH, J.P.	
Vice-Chairman	....	....	Alderman MRS. E. ASHURST.	
The Mayor	....	....	Councillor H. R. HANCOCK, J.P.	
The Ex-Mayor	....	....	Councillor T. S. MERRY.	
Alderman	....	....	H. DOWLING	
Councillors	....	....	J. BOWDEN	J. COLLINS
			F. CONNOLLY	E. DRONEY
			H. D. LOWE	T. HIGHAM
			MRS. E. NAYLOR	T. MONKS
			MRS. C. PRESTON	P. NOLAN
			O. SOMERS	J. RANKIN
			S. TOWNLEY	J. TABERNER
			W. H. WALTERS	
Co-opted Members	....		DR. D. W. JOHNSON	MR. J. HEGARTY
			MRS. B. G. HOUGHTON	MRS. C. RAYNER
			Councillor S. TAYLOR	

## **STAFF, 1955.**

Medical Officer of Health	J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Vict.).
Assistant Medical Officers	I. M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. *R. McLEAN BAIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Dental Officer	*C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.
Consultant Obstetric Surgeon	*R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S. (E.).
Chest Physician	*C. D. RUSHWORTH, M.R.C.S. Eng.,
Consultant Venereologist	*PHILIP S. SILVER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Orthopaedic Surgeon	*MISS M. F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	*E. H. L. COOK, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S.



Public Analyst	....	....	*J. GRAHAM SHERRATT, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	....		V. JONES ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ).
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector			J. B. MARSH ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) ( <i>f</i> ).
Sanitary Inspectors	....	....	R. C. WOODS ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) P. STRAFFORD ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) ( <i>f</i> ) C. JACKSON ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) J. BELL ( <i>a</i> ). (To 19th June). M. RICHARDS ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> )
Health Visitors	....	....	M. E. WHEAT ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) E. HANSON ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ). (To 30th April). E. M. WRIGHT ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) ( <i>g</i> ) C. JACKSON ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) ( <i>g</i> ) C. V. KILCULLEN ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) A. PAINTER ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) ( <i>g</i> ) V. M. PARKINSON ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) M. J. WALMESLEY ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> )
Tuberculosis Nurse	....	....	E. CODY ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> )
Supervisor of Midwives	....		E. M. READING ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> )

## MIDWIVES :

E. B. BROOKS (c). (To 31st Mar.).	D. CAREY (c) (d)
R. M. HADDOCK (c) (d)	W. KAY (c) (d)
M. L. LYNCH (c). (To 31st Jan.).	C. MORRIS (c) (d)
M. QUINN (c) (d)	M. E. REEVES (c). (From 1st Feb. to 31st Oct.).
E. S. ROGERS (c)	C. RYDER (c) (d)
M. STOREY (c) (d)	P. WAITE (c) (d). (From 1st June)
E. WILLIAMS (c) (d)	M. WOODWARD (c)

ELLESMERE ROAD NURSERY MATRON	M. F. LUCAS (d) (h)
HOME NURSING SUPERINTENDENT ....	L. MAHER (c) (d) (g)
OCCUPATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR ....	J. HANSON
CHIEF CLERK ....	A. N. BYERS

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE :

Authorised Officers and ....	V. CROWLEY
Mental Health Visitors ....	J. A. PIETRE, B.A.
Authorised Officer and Clerk ....	J. AINSCOUGH

## WELFARE SERVICES :

Senior Assistant, Welfare Services	H. THACKER, D.P.A., M.Inst.S.W. (To 31st May).
	A. SIMM (From 1st June).

## AMBULANCE SERVICE :

Ambulance Officer ....	T. A. ATHERTON, B.E.M.
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## \* Part-Time Officers.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Meat Inspectors Certificate.
- (c) Certificate, Central Midwives Board.
- (d) General Trained.
- (e) The Royal Sanitary Institute Health Visitors Certificate.
- (f) The Royal Sanitary Institute Smoke Inspectors Certificate.
- (g) Queen's Nurse.
- (h) Registered Fever Nurse.



HEALTH OFFICE,  
WIGAN.

JULY, 1956.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the County Borough of Wigan.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to submit for your perusal my Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants of the County Borough for the year 1955.

The form of the Report follows that adopted in previous years and in this introduction it remains only for me to draw your attention to certain items of special interest which have engaged our attention during the year.

The weather experienced during the year was exceptionally mild. Especially noticeable was the long, dry, sunny spell, which commenced during the town's holiday week and continued far longer than we have come to expect. Perhaps it was as a result of the long period of summer weather that no epidemic of influenza occurred during the winter months and the average weekly number of persons applying for sickness benefit was lower than that of the previous year.

The adjusted birth rate has changed little from that of the previous year—14.37 (14.31)—but it is a little below the national rate 15.0 and, perhaps more surprisingly, it is below the average for the industrial towns of the north-west.

The death rate at 11.06 and the adjusted rate 12.6 are both reduced and compare favourably with the national rate.

The infantile mortality rate 33.3 failed to maintain the record low level reached last year (27), and the stillbirth rate also increased to 33.08 (30.1).

There were no maternal deaths.

Perhaps the most encouraging information concerns the death rate from tuberculosis, which dropped from .30 to .14, certainly the lowest rate recorded in the Borough. Notifications were little more than half the number notified in the previous year. Favourable statistics, however welcome, must not engender complacency. On pages 64-69 I have reproduced the report of the Director of the Mass Miniature Radiography Units, which visited Wigan at the close of 1954. From this it will be seen that in thirteen weeks the units uncovered fifty-three cases of respiratory tuberculosis requiring treatment, an incidence rate of 1.9 per thousand or 2.3 per thousand if the numbers of school children examined are excluded. Clearly the continuation of every measure to prevent tuberculosis must be pursued with vigour.

The same investigations discovered nine malignant tumours of the chest in 3,830 males over the age of forty-five, an incidence of 2.4 per thousand, whilst investigation of 3,200 women in the same age group produced 1 malignant tumour.

There are those who would blame diesel smoke from motor vehicles and the pollution of the urban atmosphere by industrial and domestic smoke. Others point out that the marked sex differential suggests cigarette smoking as a major precipitating factor in the causation of lung cancer. Perhaps all three play a part but there is no doubt that all are largely preventable.

It has been said recently that this country is at present in the throes of an epidemic of cancer of the lung, which if it continues to progress at the present rate, will be responsible for a million deaths before the end of the century. It is obvious to everyone in the world of preventive medicine that we must use our powers, both statutory and persuasive, to clean the urban air. To this end, the Clean Air Bill at present before the House, should be of great assistance.

Those of us with power to influence the thoughts of adolescents through health education should do what we can to discourage them from starting the smoking habit and make sure that confirmed smokers understand the risks they run, until the noxious agent in cigarettes has been found and removed.

A perusal of the statistics relating to the Home Nursing Service reveals the growing volume of work involved in hypodermic injection therapy, which seems to increase yearly in popularity. I was struck by the number of injections of insulin given to diabetics, in spite of the policy of the Service, which is to teach all diabetics to administer their own insulin. The answer to this problem appears to be in some measure due to the fact that, given expert treatment, diabetics as a whole are living longer and many aged patients receive insulin to control diabetes which has occurred in the closing years of life. This is just another facet of the problem posed by the increase in the number of aged persons generally in the population.

The 1951 census showed that there were 10,313 people in Wigan over the age of 60 or 12.2% of the population, a 5% increase over 7.2%, the figure which appeared in the 1931 census. The task of caring for this increased number of aged persons who are unable to manage their own affairs, continues to engage the attention of the Department. The Home Help Service, increasing steadily year by year, is almost entirely concerned with this group. Very few maternity cases are being dealt with. This differential is largely due to the cost of the service to the average family with one or more wage earners. It is more economic for the expectant mother to make her own private arrangements to obtain the help which she requires.

The Meals on Wheels Service continues to play a valuable part in helping those who are unable to cook a meal for themselves and affords an opportunity for a friendly, if brief, chat with the person delivering the meal. The meals are prepared and packed by the School Meals Service and, although of good quality, difficulties arise when a meal which would be appreciated by the average schoolboy, turns out to be quite unsuitable to the needs of a bedfast aged person. Within the limits of their resources, the kitchen staff try to overcome these difficulties but it is not always possible to suit everyone without recourse to a special diet kitchen.

Our investigations into the needs of the aged have brought to light three gaps in our services. The first is the need for an efficient laundry service to deal with the bedding of incontinent persons being nursed at home. The second is the need for a toileting service for the aged for whom facilities in their own homes are not available and the third, although by no means the least important, is the need to provide a chiropody service for aged persons who are unable, through limited means, to visit a chiropodist in the normal way. In the coming year it is hoped that each of these services will be provided, either directly by the local authority or by voluntary effort.



The Chief Sanitary Inspector has prepared those sections of the report relating to the sanitary services, housing, food hygiene and food and drugs legislation generally and I need comment only on the volume of work accomplished by the Inspectors in preparing the report on the housing survey required under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act.

Our preliminary investigations have indicated that some 2,145 houses were considered to be unfit for habitation and when one considers that some 200 to 250 may be added to this list each year in the natural process of decay, the magnitude of the task confronting the builders and planners begins to emerge in its true perspective.

I feel I must draw attention to the dangers attending the hasty purchase of old property in the town by private individuals especially the newly-weds who find themselves desperately in need of accommodation. Intending purchasers should always seek legal advice before acquiring this type of cottage property. Several cases have come to our notice during the year, where considerable sums of money had been spent on acquiring and re-decorating property which is subject to be dealt with under the Housing Acts. The Department is always willing to give some preliminary guidance on these matters.

I am pleased to report that there appears to be an awakening of public interest in the cleanliness of food shops and that the more progressive shopkeepers, becoming aware of it, are at some pains to improve their establishments and methods. Butchers and grocers in particular are acquiring refrigerated display cabinets and are finding that the food in them keeps fresh and moreover looks attractive in the warmest weather. Nothing does more to depress sales than a window or counter full of wilting, greasy-looking cooked meats and cheeses around which are buzzing a myriad of flies.

Mr. Sherratt, the Public Analyst, has reported at length upon the samples of food, milk, water, fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs, submitted to him during the year and in view of the renewed interest in fluoridation of water supplies as a means of protecting the teeth of children, a special investigation was undertaken to determine the fluoride content of the various sources of tap water in Wigan. The investigation showed that in 4 out of 5 samples the fluoride present did not exceed 0.1 part per million, whilst the fifth sample contained 0.2 parts per million. As the amount of fluorine required to achieve a significant degree of dental protection lies between 1 and 1.5 parts per million, it is unlikely that the quantities present are exerting any influence.

In conclusion, it remains only for me to thank the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation during the year, the chief officers and technical advisers of other departments for their help from time to time and lastly the members of the Health Committee for their sustained interest and support in the many problems which are brought to them, month by month, in the course of our common task to maintain and improve the health of the inhabitants of the Borough.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





*Section I*

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**Natural and  
Social Conditions  
of the Area**

## GENERAL

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,082
Rateable Value of the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£507,766
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	£1,992
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July, 1955 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	82,750
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1955 (according to the rate books)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24,348
Number of marriages solemnised within the Borough during 1955	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	733

A substantial portion of the Borough is used for agricultural purposes. These areas are sparsely populated. The average number of persons per acre varies in the fourteen wards within the Borough from 4 to 71, the overall average being 16.3. The Borough of Wigan forms a considerable part of the valley of the River Douglas. The river, which is the boundary on the north side, continues its course to the centre of the town and finally becomes the boundary at the west side. The levels on which the river enters and leaves are respectively 150 and 69 feet above sea level. Water taken from the river feeds the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which traverses the town. Due to the meagre drop in level the river water flows slowly and the bed is self-cleaning only during the winter months. The waters are badly polluted before they enter the Borough and as a result of this and subsequent pollution the river maintains little or no life—plant or animal. The maximum elevations of the town are at the extreme north 254 feet and at the south-west 260 feet. The lowest level is at the north-west boundary which is 69 feet above sea level.

Geologically, the whole of the Borough rests on the lower coal measures, or Gannister beds, which are here very superficial. This has led to outcrop mining in several parts of the district. The subsoil is mainly clay which in places has a depth of nearly 20 feet; but there is an important layer of sand covering a large part of the centre of the town and extending northwards in the direction of Standish. This sand is also found in "pockets" in other parts of the Borough. Much of the Western portion, beyond the Park, lies on a fairly extensive gravel bed.

Extensive mining operations over several generations have brought about subsidence in many parts of the Borough. In some areas this has had a disastrous effect on property and is a constant source of worry both as regards the condition of old sewers and water mains and planning sites for new buildings.

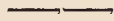
The population is essentially an industrial one, the principal industries being coal mining, iron and steel working, cotton spinning and weaving and the manufacture of clothing.

The development of the Lamberhead Green trading estate has brought new light industry to the town and a Ministry of Labour Remploi factory caters for the disabled who are able to perform useful work.

Work has begun on the large site in Kitt Green on which Messrs. H. J. Heinz and Co. Ltd. are building their food canning factory. Close liaison with the architects is being maintained to ensure that the best methods of securing a high standard of environmental hygiene for the workers are incorporated in the building. To provide the factory with an adequate water supply and to cope with the trade effluent the Corporation are involved in vast capital schemes which will also be of benefit to the Borough indirectly. Substantial extensions to the Hoscarr Sewage Works are long overdue and the water supply to the Pemberton area where much new house building is in progress is precarious in the summer months.



## *Section 11*



# **Statistics**

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1954-55.

	1954	1955
Area (acres) ....	5,082	5,082
Population (Estimated by Registrar General) ....	83,000	82,750
Live Births : Males 590 } Females 551 } Total ....	1,224	1,141
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ....	14.75	13.79
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Area comparability factor 0.97) ....	14.31	14.37
Ration of local adjusted rate to national rate ....	0.94	0.96
Birth Rate for England and Wales ....	15.2	15.0
Illegitimate Births number 29, or .35 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of ....	2.12	2.54
Deaths : Males 509 } Females 406 } Total ....	944	915
Death Rate per 1,000 population ....	11.37	11.06
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population (Area comparability factor 1.14) ....	12.96	12.60
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate ....	1.15	1.08
Death Rate for England and Wales ....	11.3	11.7
Excess of Registered Births over Deaths ....	280	226
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	—	—
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary .... 0.12 } Other than Pulmonary 0.01 } Total ....	0.30	0.13
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years ....	—	3
Death Rate (per 1,000 births from Diarrhoea and Enteritis ....	—	2.63
Infantile Rate (deaths per 1,000 births) ....	27.0	33.3
Ditto for England and Wales ....	25.5	24.9
Neo-Natal Rate ....	21.2	29.8
Perinatal Rate (includes still births plus 1st week deaths)	48	53
Still-Birth Rate ....	30.1	33.08
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old ....	13	15
Ditto 1 year (legitimate) ....	32	34
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate) ....	1	4

### CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1955.

DISEASE						No. of Deaths	Rate
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	10	.12
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	...	...	...	...	1	.01
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	2	.02
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	2	.02
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	.02
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	...	...	...	...	17	.21
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	25	.30
12.	„ „ Breast	...	...	...	...	11	.13
13.	„ „ Uterus	...	...	...	...	5	.06
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	71	.86
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	3	.04
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	7	.09
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	124	1.50
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	112	1.36
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	11	.13
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	125	1.51
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	30	.36
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	7	.09
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	34	.41
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	91	1.10
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	18	.22
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	6	.07
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	6	.07
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	16	.19
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	10	.12
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	4	.05
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	122	1.48
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	11	.13
34.	All Other Accidents...	...	...	...	...	23	.28
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	8	.10
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	1	.01
						915	11.06



## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.

CAUSES	Sex	All Ages	0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75+
ALL CAUSES ... ..	M. F.	509 406	24 14	5 4	1 —	2 1	28 12	159 81	153 117	137 177
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M. F.	7 3	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 2	4 —	1 1	— —
2. Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	— —	— —
4. Diphtheria ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
8. Measles ... ..	M. F.	1 1	— —	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	M. F.	2 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M. F.	10 7	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 1	5 3	3 1	1 2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ... ..	M. F.	24 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	16 —	5 1	2 —
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F.	11	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	F.	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	M. F.	43 28	— —	— —	— —	— —	6 —	10 11	14 14	13 3
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M. F.	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— 1	— —
16. Diabetes ... ..	M. F.	2 5	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 5	— —	— —
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	M. F.	55 69	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 2	13 15	24 23	17 29
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M. F.	76 36	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	27 10	27 11	22 15

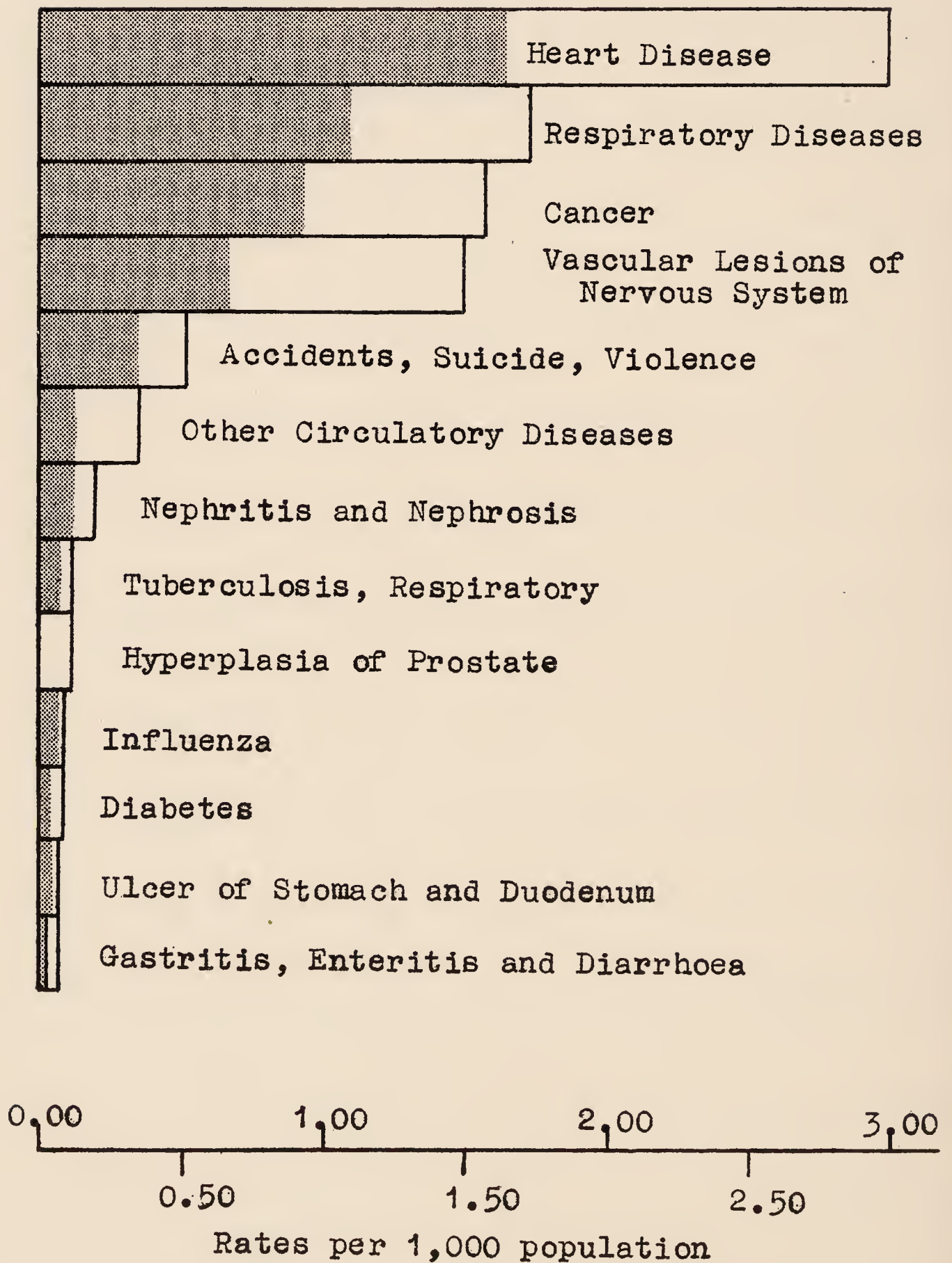
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.—*continued.*

[illegible]

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATHS AT ALL AGES, 1955.

SHADED PORTION = MALES

UNSHADED PORTION = FEMALES





POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.

Ward						Ward No.	Estimated Population	Death Totals	Death Rate
St. George	...	...	...	...	...	1	2252	50	22.20
Lindsay	...	...	...	...	...	2	4568	43	9.41
St. Catharine	...	...	...	...	...	3	5240	62	11.83
St. Patrick	...	...	...	...	...	4	5963	80	13.42
St. Thomas	...	...	...	...	...	5	2368	27	11.40
Poolstock	...	...	...	...	...	6	3617	40	11.06
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	7	2740	26	9.49
St. Andrew	...	...	...	...	...	8	16025	161	10.05
Swinley	...	...	...	...	...	9	9972	112	11.23
All Saints	...	...	...	...	...	10	2014	21	10.43
West Pemberton	...	...	...	...	...	11	6857	47	6.85
North Pemberton	...	...	...	...	...	12	6300	66	10.48
Central Pemberton	...	...	...	...	...	13	9050	114	12.60
South Pemberton	...	...	...	...	...	14	5784	60	10.37
TOTALS ... ..						...	82,750	909	10.98

Estimated population of Wards is based on current Register of Electors.  
Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated population  
of 82,750.

CRUDE DEATH RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
11.55	13.37	11.55	12.49	12.57	14.54	13.15	12.02	11.37	11.06

## DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE

(Classified locally under the Registrar General's  
causation, age and

CAUSES OF DEATHS	Class No.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District								
		All Ages	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	1	10	—	—	—	—	4	4	2	—
Tuberculosis, Other ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	8	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	10	17	—	—	—	—	2	7	5	3
"    "    Lung, Bronchus	11	23	—	—	—	—	—	15	6	2
"    "    Breast ...	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	2
"    "    Uterus ...	13	6	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—
Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	68	—	—	—	—	6	20	26	16
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	15	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Diabetes ...	16	7	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	119	—	—	—	1	3	29	43	43
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	18	97	—	—	—	—	—	34	36	27
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	19	11	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	2
Other Heart Disease ...	20	130	—	—	—	—	4	20	34	72
Other Circulatory Disease ...	21	40	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	23
Influenza ...	22	6	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Pneumonia ...	23	36	5	1	—	1	—	12	9	8
Bronchitis ...	24	84	—	—	—	—	3	22	30	29
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	25	16	—	—	—	—	1	9	6	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	26	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	27	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	28	19	—	—	—	—	5	5	7	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	29	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	31	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	32	135	28	3	1	1	5	15	24	58
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	33	9	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	5
All Other Accidents ...	34	26	—	2	—	—	2	7	5	10
Suicide ...	35	8	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	36	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...		909	38	9	1	4	40	239	268	310

52 WEEKS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

short list—grouped according to  
ward residence).

## DEATHS AT ALL AGES

Class No.	St. George Ward	Lindsay Ward	St. Catharine Ward	St. Patrick Ward	St. Thomas Ward	Poolstock Ward	Victoria Ward	St. Andrew Ward	Swinley Ward	All Saints Ward	West Pem- berton Ward	North Pem- berton Ward	Central Pem- berton Ward	South Pem- berton Ward	Total Deaths
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	10
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
10	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	4	2	—	—	1	4	—	17
11	2	1	1	2	1	1	—	4	1	1	1	2	2	4	23
12	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	10
13	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	6
14	5	3	9	4	1	4	1	13	8	2	5	7	2	4	68
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
16	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	7
17	2	10	10	13	4	7	1	22	17	1	6	7	16	3	119
18	7	5	9	7	4	2	1	18	14	2	5	6	11	6	97
19	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	1	11
20	7	4	6	10	3	7	7	27	16	5	6	7	18	7	130
21	1	2	2	4	4	1	4	3	6	2	1	1	2	7	40
22	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	6
23	3	1	5	4	—	—	2	7	5	1	—	2	4	2	36
24	3	5	5	9	3	3	1	20	10	1	6	4	10	4	84
25	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	1	4	3	16
26	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	5
27	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
28	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	4	—	1	4	4	—	19
29	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	4
32	11	5	5	11	2	8	6	18	15	3	8	14	20	9	135
33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	9
34	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	26
35	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
36	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	50	43	62	80	27	40	26	161	112	21	47	66	114	60	909



# DEATHS FROM CERTAIN RESPIRATORY DISEASES

COMPARATIVE RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

## BRONCHITIS

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	118	86	92	88	91
Rates ....	....	....	1.40	1.03	1.11	1.06	1.10

## PNEUMONIA

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	46	46	37	36	34
Rates ....	....	....	0.55	0.55	0.44	0.43	0.41

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	35	10	20	24	10
Rates ....	....	....	0.42	0.12	0.24	0.29	0.12

## CANCER OF THE LUNG, BRONCHUS

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	19	27	29	20	25
Rates ....	....	....	0.23	0.32	0.35	0.24	0.30

## OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	16	11	13	15	18
Rates ....	....	....	0.19	0.13	0.16	0.18	0.22

## TOTAL FROM ALL RESPIRATORY CAUSES

			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	....	234	180	191	183	178
Rates ....	....	....	2.79	2.15	2.30	2.20	2.15

## C A N C E R

DEATHS 1896 — 1955.

	No.	Rate		No.	Rate
1896—1900	137	0.44	1926—1930	410	0.93
1901—1905	179	0.53	1931—1935	538	1.28
1906—1910	223	0.49	1936—1940	586	1.42
1911—1915	276	0.61	1941—1945	609	1.54
1916—1920	308	0.72	1946—1950	669	1.59
1921—1925	347	0.76	1951—1955	717	1.72

# CANCER

LOCALISATION OF DISEASE, NUMBER OF DEATHS AND RATE PER 1,000  
POPULATION ANNUALLY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	6	.07	6	.07	5	.06	5	.06												
Uterus ...	3	.04	6	.07	9	.11	7	.08	4	.05	4	.05	12	.14	9	.11	3	.04	5	.06
Stomach and Duodenum ...	22	.26	31	.37	23	.27	32	.38	27	.32	29	.34	29	.35	34	.41	28	.34	17	.21
Breast ...	11	.14	14	.17	13	.15	16	.19	15	.18	22	.26	13	.16	20	.24	14	.17	11	.13
Lung, Bronchus									20	.24	19	.23	27	.32	29	.35	20	.24	25	.30
Other Sites...	79	.95	74	.88	79	.94	87	1.03	75	.88	81	.96	74	.88	64	.77	57	.69	71	.86
Total deaths from cancer ...	121	1.46	131	1.56	129	1.53	147	1.74	141	1.67	155	1.84	155	1.85	156	1.88	122	1.48	129	1.56
Total deaths All Causes ...	957	11.55	1125	13.37	975	11.55	1059	12.49	1068	12.57	1224	14.54	1100	13.15	1001	12.02	944	11.37	915	11.06

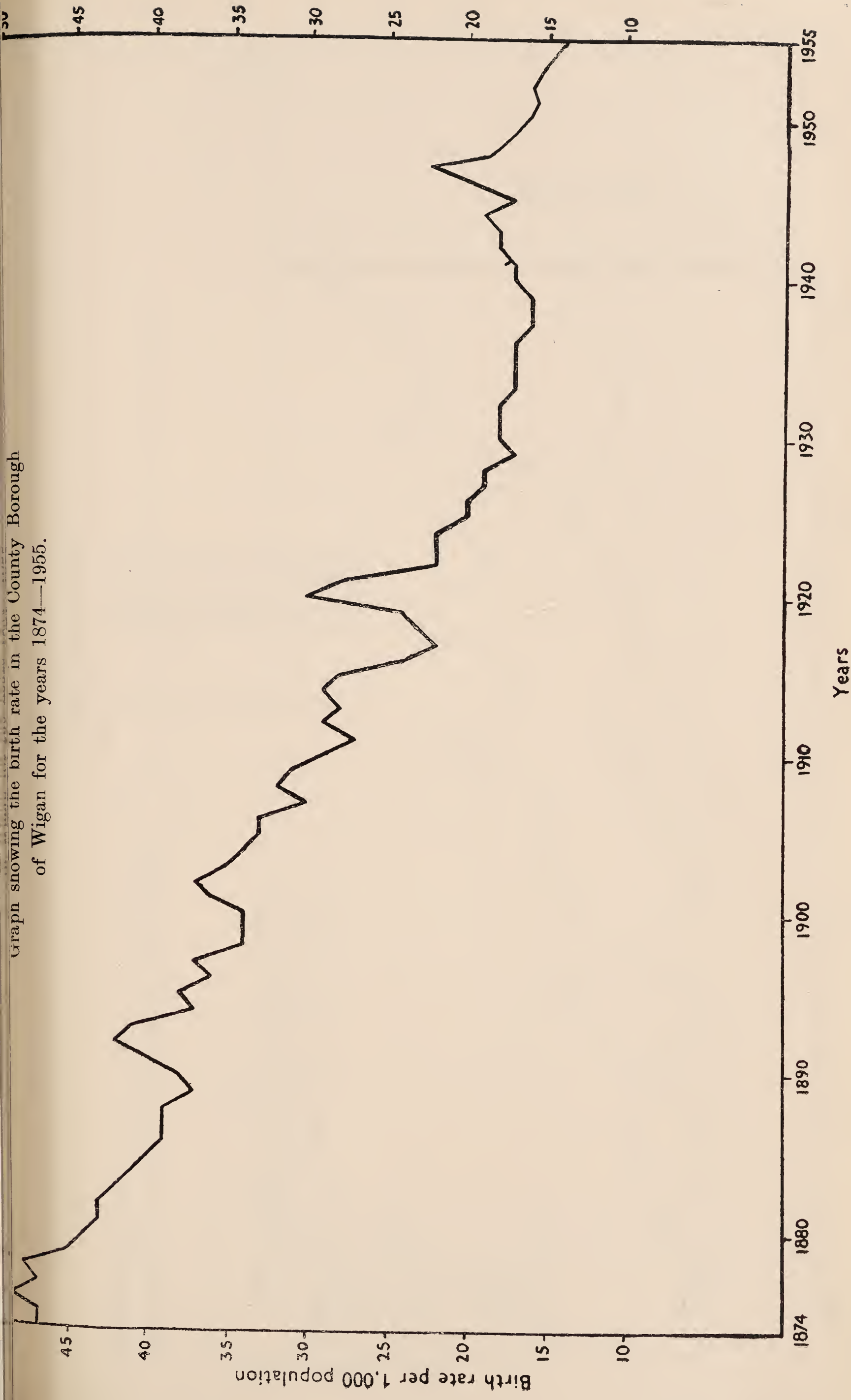
NOTE.—Deaths from Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus are included in 'other sites' from 1950.  
Deaths from Cancer of the Lung, bronchus are included in 'other sites' to 1949.

ANALYSIS OF LIVE PREMATURE BIRTHS, 1955

Weight at Birth	Born at Home and nursed at Home			Born at Home and transferred to Hospital			Born in Hospital			Born in Maternity Home		
	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days	Total	died under 24 hours	survived 28 days
3lbs. 4ozs. or less (1500 gms. or less)	1	1	—	3	2	—	10	7	1	—	—	—
	1	1	—	4	2	2	15	—	13	—	—	—
Over 3lbs. 4ozs. up to 4lbs. 6ozs. (1500-2000 gms.)	3	—	3	—	—	—	17	2	14	—	—	—
	8	—	8	—	—	—	38	—	38	—	—	—
	13	2	11	7	4	2	80	9	66	—	—	—



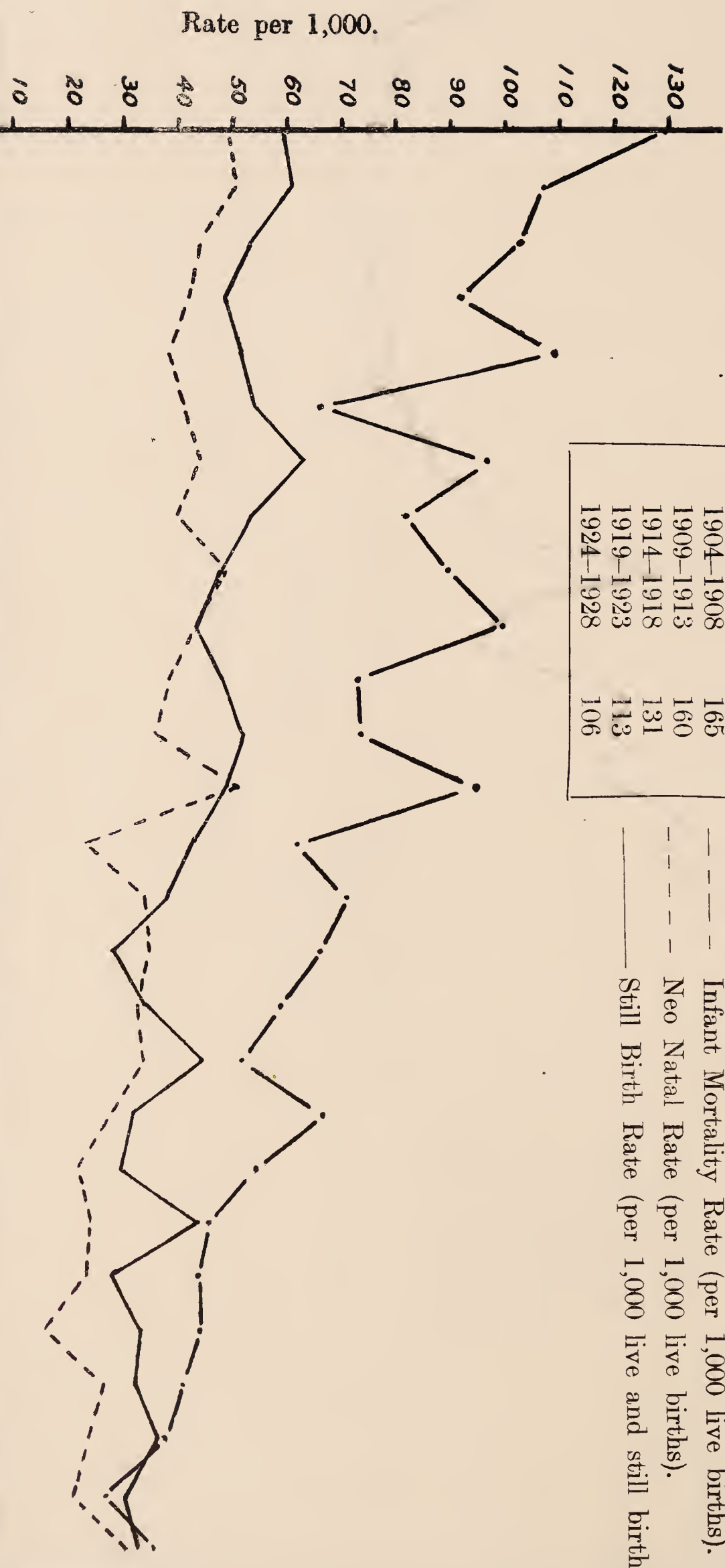
Graph showing the birth rate in the County Borough  
of Wigan for the years 1874—1955.



Infant Mortality Rate		
5-year periods, 1874-1928		
1874-1878	200	
1879-1883	177	
1884-1888	171	
1889-1893	184	
1894-1898	175	
1899-1903	184	
1904-1908	165	
1909-1913	160	
1914-1918	131	
1919-1923	113	
1924-1928	106	

GRAPH showing the INFANT MORTALITY AND STILL BIRTH RATES in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1929-1955

——— Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births).  
 - - - - - Neo Natal Rate (per 1,000 live births).  
 ——— Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births).



INFANT MORTALITY, 1955. NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS PERIODS  
UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Class No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	Un-der 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7-13 days	14-20 days	21-28 days	28 days to 2 mths	2 mths	3 mths	4 mths	5 mths	6 mths	7 mths	8 mths	9 mths	10 mths	11 mths	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
9	Septicaemia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
22	Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23	Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Broncho Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
27	Gastro-enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
31	Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
32	Prematurity ... ..	6	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
	<i>with:</i>																						
	Previabile live birth	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Atelactasis ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	Jaundice ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Atelectatsis ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	<i>with other causes</i>	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Other causes ... ..	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
		15	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	38



# INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of children under one year is 38 or 33.3 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 9, or .11 per 1,000 of the population. (In 1954 there were 33 deaths under one year, a rate of 27.0 per 1,000).

The Neo-Natal death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births on or before the 28th day of life) was 29.8. The actual numbers :—

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Legitimate ....	18	12	30
Illegitimate ....	3	1	4
	—	—	—
	21	13	34
	==	==	==

Of these 25, *i.e.*, 74% died during the first week of life.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 33.3 is higher than the record low figure of 27.0 which was recorded in 1954.

The infant deaths occurred as follows :—

HOME	HOSPITAL, ETC.
4	27 Billinge 5 R.A.E. Infirmary 2 Whelley Hospital
38 TOTAL.	

Prematurity remains as the greatest single cause of death (19), whilst pneumonia claimed 5. An analysis of live premature births is set out on p. 22.

The Still-birth rate for the year is 32.23. The average rates for the previous 25 years are as follow :—

1930-1934	....	....	53.8
1935-1939	....	....	51.0
1940-1944	....	....	41.8
1945-1949	....	....	37.3
1950-1954	....	....	32.0

The Peri-Natal rate (using the formula :

Infant deaths under 1 week + stillbirths x 1,000

live births + stillbirths

gives a figure for the year of 53.

The average rates for the previous 25 years are as follow :—

1930-1934	....	....	81.8
1935-1939	....	....	81.4
1940-1944	....	....	66.8
1945-1949	....	....	57.4
1950-1954	....	....	49.4

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Maternal Deaths :—

No death was recorded.

Comparative figures for the last five years :—

		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths ....	....	1	—	1	—	—
Rate ....	....	0.73	—	0.74	—	—
Births ....	....	1,329	1,347	1,303	1,224	1,141

## INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

(Wigan residents only).

The number of inquests held during 1955 was 86, and the following verdicts have been recorded :—

1. Natural Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
2. Accidents—Falls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
,, Burns	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Colliery	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Road	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
,, Asphyxia	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
,, Operation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
,, War Wounds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
3. Suicides—Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
,, Cut Throat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Hanging	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Poison	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
4. Open—Drowning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
,, Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Coal Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5. Manslaughter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
6. Murder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
								86

There was one uncertified death in 1955.

**MORBIDITY****WIGAN AREA**

The figures given below, compiled by the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance, indicate the number of persons applying for sickness benefit (first certificate only) week by week during the year 1955.

The accompanying graph indicates more clearly the seasonal variation and a comparison can be made with the figures for 1954.

## Incidence of Sickness—Working Population, 1955.

Jan.	4th	....	647	July	5th	....	336
"	11th	....	659	"	12th	....	159
"	18th	....	628	"	19th	....	334
"	25th	....	766	"	26th	....	380
Feb.	1st	....	592	Aug.	2nd	....	347
"	8th	....	504	"	9th	....	397
"	15th	....	520	"	16th	....	382
"	22nd	....	607	"	23rd	....	381
Mar.	1st	....	667	"	30th	....	418
"	8th	....	556	Sept.	6th	....	469
"	15th	....	550	"	13th	....	459
"	22nd	....	529	"	20th	....	449
"	29th	....	670	"	27th	....	518
April	5th	....	583	Oct.	4th	....	470
"	12th	....	419	"	11th	....	472
"	19th	....	518	"	18th	....	473
"	26th	....	441	"	25th	....	517
May	3rd	....	502	Nov.	1st	....	496
"	10th	....	387	"	8th	....	539
"	17th	....	377	"	15th	....	496
"	24th	....	367	"	22nd	....	586
"	31st	....	400	"	29th	....	541
June	7th	....	412	Dec.	6th	....	447
"	14th	....	347	"	13th	....	400
"	21st	....	310	"	20th	....	360
"	28th	....	344	"	27th	....	603

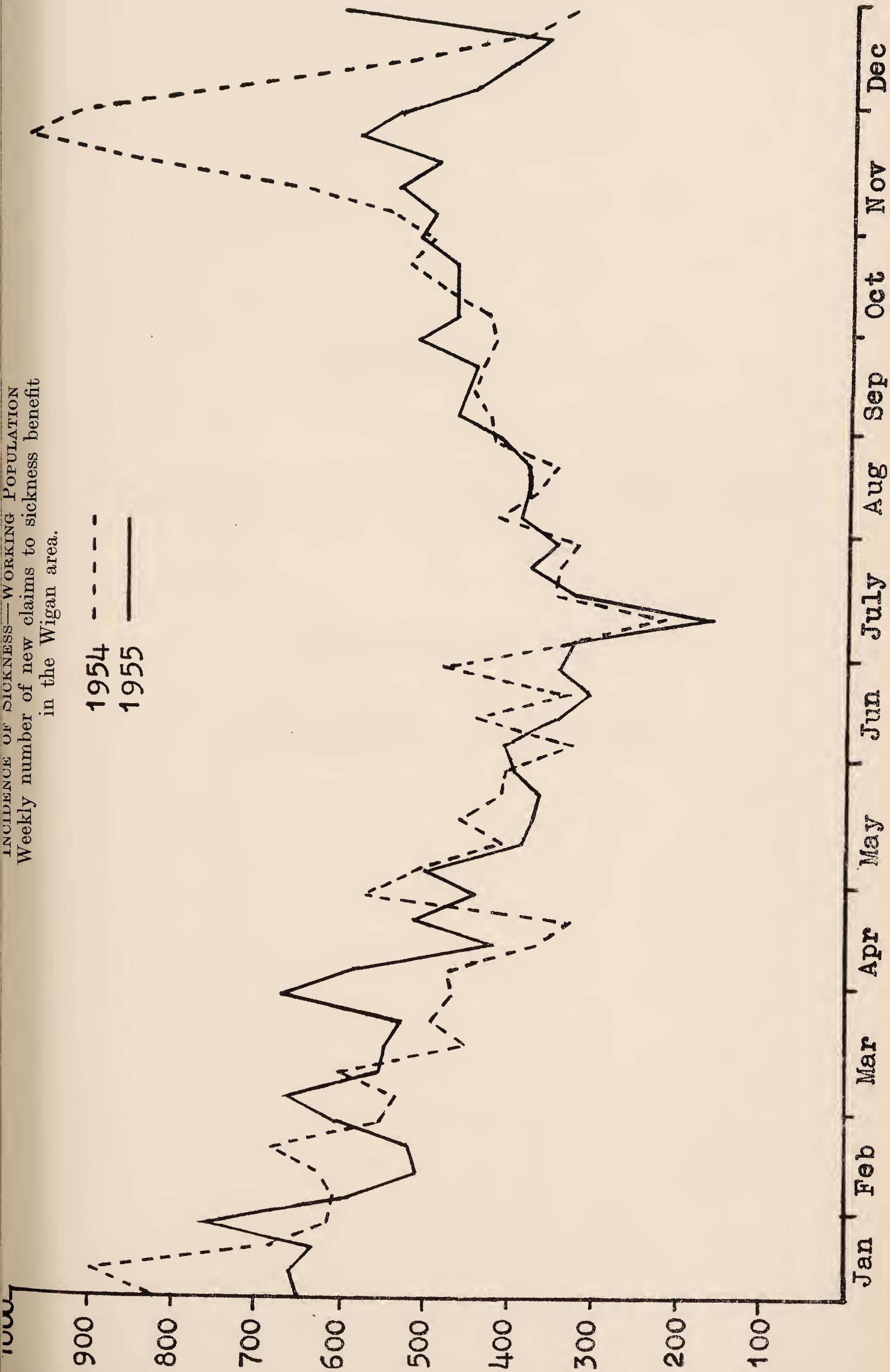
Average weekly—476.

The average weekly number of persons applying for sickness benefit has decreased from 507 in 1954 to 476. This is mainly due to the absence of any real epidemic of influenza-like disease during the winter and better than average figures during the very dry, warm summer.



INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS—WORKING POPULATION  
Weekly number of new claims to sickness benefit  
in the Wigan area.

1954 - - - - -  
1955 —————





*Section III*

---

**National Health Service Act, 1946**

---

**Provision of  
Health Services**



## CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

The undermentioned Centres are open on the days and at the times stated :—

CENTRE.	DAYS OPEN.
WIGAN CENTRAL CLINIC, Millgate.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 4-0 p.m.</p> <p>Ante-Natal Clinic : Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month.</p> <p>Post-Natal Clinic : On two Thursdays each month at 2 p.m.</p> <p>Dental Clinic for expectant and nursing mothers and young children : Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.</p> <p>Class for expectant mothers : Friday afternoons at 2 p.m.</p>
PEMBERTON CLINIC : 15, Billinge Road.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Monday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Ante-Natal Clinic : Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month.</p>
SCHOLES CLINIC : St. Catharine's Mission, Platt Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Friday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.</p>
WORSLEY MESNES CLINIC : Methodist Church, Poolstock Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.</p>
SPRINGFIELD CLINIC : St Andrew's Church House, Woodhouse Lane.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Tuesday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.</p>
LAMBERHEAD GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Fleet Street.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.</p>
GOOSE GREEN CLINIC : Methodist Church, Northumberland Street.	<p>Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.</p>
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC : Wigan Central Clinic, Millgate.	<p>Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince, Hindley and Standish also attend.</p>

## ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Two ante-natal clinics are held each week—one in the Clinic, Millgate, the other in Billinge Road, Pemberton. An Assistant Medical Officer conducts each Clinic and a Consultant attends at each on one session per month. The midwives attend in turn and are encouraged to bring their booked cases.

	WIGAN CENTRE		PEMBERTON	
	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic	Weekly Clinic	Special Clinic
Number of Primary Cases attending Clinic during year ....	293	2	141	68
Total number of attendances ....	1,426	134	687	261

## POST-NATAL CLINICS.

For post-natal care two sessions per month are held at one centre, each alternate session being attended by a consultant. Domiciliary cases where no doctor was engaged and cases delivered in hospital may attend for examination. 150 new cases were examined during the year and there were 27 return cases, a total of 177.

## CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

A mothercraft training and exercise class for expectant primiperae meets at the Central Clinic each week. It is conducted by a Health Visitor and the Supervisor of Midwives. 51 classes were held during the year 1955 and 663 attendances were made by mothers.

Whilst individual patients are submitted for chest X-ray on clinical grounds routine chest X-ray of expectant mothers has not yet been developed but blood-testing for the rhesus factor and the Wasserman reaction is part of the routine of ante-natal care. Some general practitioners send their patients to have this procedure carried out at the clinics. Iron therapy in the form of Fersolate tablets is available and a supply of welfare orange juice and vitamins may also be obtained from the clinics. Maternity outfits are available for domestic confinements and are under the charge of the non-medical supervisor of midwives. The midwife engaged is responsible for ensuring that each of her patients is provided with an outfit.

## CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS

There is one residential home in Wigan for expectant and nursing unmarried mothers. It is under the control of the Liverpool Diocesan Church Council but is not restricted to Church of England members and the local authority pay a substantial amount yearly towards its maintenance. The local health authority clinics are available to the girls and full advantage is taken of these facilities.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

The local authority has provided seven child welfare centres, at which one clinic is held each week. Each is in the charge of a Health Visitor and an Assistant Medical Officer attends at each session. During the year attendances were as follows :—

CLINIC	Children			Total	Primary Cases	Cases examined by medical attendant	Mothers Attend'g
	under 1 year	over 1 and under 2	2 and under 5				
Central ... ..	1634	319	299	2252	267	871	2032
Scholes ... ..	1000	237	274	1511	143	722	1328
Pemberton ... ..	1136	240	344	1720	190	698	1542
Worsley Mesnes	571	150	188	909	52	348	799
Springfield ... ..	1384	215	247	1846	140	587	1712
Fleet Street ... ..	925	141	373	1439	133	455	1188
Goose Green ... ..	658	128	224	1010	96	314	874
	7308	1430	1949	10687	1021	3995	9475

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

INFANTS :	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Total Attendances ....	10936	11328	12748	10929	10687
Primary Attendances....	1368	1179	1117	1071	1021

Expectant Mothers :

Central :

Weekly Clinic ....	1775	1879	1679	1412	1426
Special Clinic ....	187	168	146	144	134

Pemberton :

Weekly Clinic ....	831	847	870	743	687
Special Clinic ....	372	353	428	398	261

No consultant attends at the child welfare centres but cases are referred from them to the Paediatrician at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. A Health Visitor attends the Paediatric Clinic at the Infirmary weekly as liaison officer and adviser on the social aspects of the cases. Cases are also referred to the Infirmary for orthoptic treatment.

Orthopaedic treatment and speech therapy are available at the local authority's clinic in Millgate.



DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

A Welfare Foods Shop is situated in the Municipal Buildings and from it welfare foods are distributed.

The quantity of Welfare Foods distributed during the year is shown below :

National Dried Milk	....	....	....	72,003	tins.
Orange Juice	....	....	....	73,738	bottles.
Cod Liver Oil	....	....	....	13,502	bottles.
Vitamin A and D tablets	....	....	....	6,205	packets.

DENTAL CARE AND TREATMENT

I am indebted to the Principal School Dental Officer for the following summary of the dental work carried out during the year for the Maternity and Child Welfare Section :—

Arrangements for the dental examination and treatment of children and expectant mothers under the Priority Service have been continued as in previous years.

Two sessions each week were allocated for this work and mothers at the Ante-Natal Clinic were urged to attend for a dental inspection. In some cases there was still reluctance to accept dental treatment but in many instances there was a favourable response.

In addition to the inspections carried out at The Elms and Ellesmere Road nurseries, children of pre-school age are referred for dental treatment by the Assistant Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Analysis of Priority Dental Care.

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	215	121	96	96
Children under five ... ..	101	43	33	33

## Forms of dental treatment provided :—

	Ex- trac- tions	Anaesthetics		Fill- ings	Scaling or Scaling and gum treat- ment	Silver Nitrate treat- ment	Dress- ings	Radio graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	Gen- eral						Com- plete	Par- tial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	39	39	—	59	55	—	—	—	—	1
Children under five	31	31	—	21	10	8	8	—	—	—

In addition to the above, 355 children under five years of age were inspected under the School Dental Service.

## NURSERY

The 24-hour Nursery provided by the Local Authority is situated at Ellesmere Road, Pemberton, and since August, 1954, when the extension was opened, has accommodation for 67 children during the day and 17 at night.

The Nursery is recognised as a Training Nursery for the National Nursery Examination Board Certificate for Nursery Nurses. During the year two students were presented for examination.

The demand for admission of children to the nursery continues and at the end of the year there were 40 applicants on the waiting list.

More settled conditions in industry and a slackening in the demand for textiles has obviated the necessity for women to work night shifts. This has been reflected in the very few requests now being made for 24 hour accommodation. This facility is being used mainly on social grounds, *e.g.*, for the overnight care of children whose parents are temporarily unable to care for them due to bereavement or acute illness. It has also been used in connection with the re-habilitation of children from problem families.

The average attendances during the year were :

	DAY (including those who remain at night)			NIGHT
Children under 2 years of age ....	....	....	13	4
Children between 2 and 5 years ....	....	....	34	5
			—	—
TOTALS ....	....	....	47	9
			==	==

## NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATIONS ACT, 1948.

There are no industrial nurseries in the area but one person is registered as a child minder. Regular visits have been paid by the department to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.



### FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

The authority is sympathetic towards the dissemination of information regarding infertility and the spacing of families, and grants the use of the premises in Millgate to the Wigan Branch of the Family Planning Association. An evening session is held once each week and is well attended, the average attendance per session being 9 new cases and nearly 30 return cases. For lay staff the clinic relies on voluntary workers from the association. In addition specially trained women doctors and nurses are employed at each session. The service, although not in any way advertised in the public press is increasing in popularity, and there is no doubt that the clinic is contributing greatly to the sum of social medicine undertaken by the authority. The professional and voluntary workers deserve the highest praise for their efforts.

### DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The establishment of the service is now one non-medical Supervisor and 11 municipal midwives. A reduction of two midwives has been made possible as a result of the implementation by the Council of a scheme of motor car allowances for midwives, *vide infra*.

The total number of cases attended by them during the year was 598, compared with 679 in 1954. The midwives acted as maternity nurses in 56 cases. The average number of cases attended by each was 54. Although the doctor was engaged in 84% of the cases he was present at the delivery of only 9%.

Booking for confinement in hospital is restricted to certain categories of patients, *i.e.*, where there is some obstetrical abnormality, for primiparae who seek admission, for cases where there is some associated medical condition and for those whose home conditions are unsuitable. The supervisor of midwives visits the homes of all who apply on social grounds and there is good co-operation in this direction between the hospital, the general practitioners and the clinics.

No fewer than 49% of the births in Wigan take place on the district.

The midwives are on duty by rota at the ante-natal clinics. This helps to keep them up-to-date in modern methods and also gives them an opportunity of having their clinical findings confirmed.

At the ante-natal clinics 226 samples of blood were taken for Wasserman reaction and 273 for the rhesus factor.

### MEDICAL AID

By the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are required to send for medical aid under conditions and for reasons which are specified. Medical aid was summoned in 115 cases—in 108 cases for the mother alone and in 7 cases for the child alone. The general practitioner had been engaged in 59 of these cases.

### ANALGESIA AND ANAESTHESIA

A Gas and Air Analgesia Service is provided by the Department and all the municipal midwives are qualified to administer analgesia.

Five outfits are available and they are transported to and from the homes of the patients by the midwife if she has a car or by the Ambulance Service.

The Service is popular, 62% of cases having availed themselves of it.

All midwives have been instructed in the use of Pethidine and it was administered in 312 cases during 1955.

The midwives advise all their patients on the advantages of having analgesia unless it is contra-indicated on medical grounds.



### TRANSPORT OF MIDWIVES

The midwives when on duty are allowed to use the Corporation's bus service free of charge.

During the year the Council agreed to the adoption of the National Joint Council's scheme of car allowances, etc. (essential user) for midwives who use their own cars, the scheme to be operated for a trial period of twelve months from the 1st July, 1955.

At the end of the year, after six months working, six midwives who took advantage of the scheme had travelled a total of 4,288 miles on duty.

The midwife with a car is more mobile, she can cover a wider area, keep dry in inclement weather, and can render a quicker and more efficient service to her patients.

### MATERNITY HOMES

The Christopher Home, administered by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee, is the only Nursing or Maternity Home within the Borough. Six beds are available for maternity cases and during the year there were 34 Wigan births in the Home.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No case has been notified during the last five years.

### EMERGENCY OBSTETRICAL UNIT

By arrangement with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee a mobile Obstetrical Unit based on Billinge Hospital is available for cases of obstetrical emergency occurring within the Borough. The unit, composed of an obstetrician and an experienced hospital nurse, along with equipment for blood transfusion, is transported to the home by the Ambulance Service. No call upon this service was made during the year.

### CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

The number of premature infants (*i.e.*, weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year was 100; of these 20 were born at home and 80 in hospital.

The early care of the premature infants born at home is undertaken by one midwife, who has shown special aptitude for this work.

The arrangement is that on receiving information of the birth the "premature baby" midwife takes over the case entirely and attends both mother and baby. Visits are paid daily or more often if necessary, special attention being given to the feeding and handling of the baby. Special equipment in the form of a draught-proof cot with bedding and hot-water bottles is available on loan.

Daily record charts are made out for each infant and these are made available to the doctor attending the cases.

The intensive visiting is continued during the first month or until such time as baby has attained normal standards. By these means the mother is given every opportunity of learning how to handle and tend the infant.

During the year 13 premature babies received this concentrated attention. The results are very good and fully justify the time devoted to them.

A premature baby unit is now functioning at Billinge Hospital under the control of the Consultant Paediatrician. Close liaison is maintained with the Department, especially when babies are about to be discharged to home.

It is interesting to record that premature babies weighing between 3 lbs. 4 ozs. and 4 lbs. 6 ozs. usually do better if born in hospital and nursed in the premature baby unit. Those weighing 4 lbs. 6 ozs. do equally well whether born and nursed in hospital or on the district, provided the home conditions are good.

In Appendix 'B' I have tried to indicate the considerable change which has overtaken the midwifery services of the Borough in the past ten years. From the diagram it will be seen that the services of the general practitioners are now widely accepted where formerly the midwife only was engaged.

In only 7.7% of cases was no doctor engaged in 1955. At first sight it would appear that the midwife is now acting largely as a maternity nurse but this is not so. Of the 36.9% of cases where the doctor was engaged he was present at only 4.3% of the deliveries. Thus the midwife was fully responsible.

Institutional midwifery is becoming increasingly popular throughout the country and in Wigan in the last five years cases have increased by 10% and perhaps only shortage of maternity accommodation has prevented a further increase. There are many arguments for and against domiciliary midwifery but these are rarely considered by the expectant mother. She knows that hospital accommodation is free whilst on the other hand even the increased maternity grant does not cover the cost of a home help and the other expenses associated with having a baby at home.

Her choice is inevitably restricted but how long can the country afford the hospitalisation of normal cases in the face of rising hospital costs, shortage of beds and skilled nursing staff. If however the trend persists and institutional midwifery is preferred, perhaps one answer to the economic angle lies in the provision of a municipal lying-in hostel, where in simple accommodation general practitioners and midwives can deliver their normal cases, a charge for accommodation only being made upon the patient.



## RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA

No cases were reported during 1955.

## HEALTH VISITING

Summary of visits during the year 1955 :—

No. of primary visits to births	....	....	....	....	....	....	1158
„ visits to infants under one year	....	....	....	....	....	....	6046
„ „ infants over one year and under two years	....	....	....	....	....	....	3531
„ „ infants over two and under three years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2891
„ „ infants over three and under four years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2293
„ „ infants over four and under five years	....	....	....	....	....	....	2537
„ „ expectant mothers	....	....	....	....	....	....	37
„ „ cases of infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	803
„ „ <i>re</i> deaths under one year	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
„ „ abortions	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
„ „ still births	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
Other visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	499

During the year there were only seven health visitors instead of ten. On this reduced establishment it is quite impossible to do all the preventive work which the service demands and although we do not favour the policy we have been obliged to adopt the method of selective visiting.

During the year, four student Health Visitors from the Bolton Training School have received practical training in the Department.

A Health Visitor continues to attend the Out-Patient Paediatric Clinic held each week at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. This has proved to be a valuable link between the home and the hospital as the Department is able to advise the specialist on the social and environmental aspects of cases. Also, the Health Visitor, having first-hand knowledge of the treatment recommended, can help the mother to carry it out in the home.

Two Clinic Nurses, one a trained nurse and one an enrolled assistant nurse, give part-time help at the Infant Clinics. They release the Health Visitors from minor routine duties so that their specialised knowledge can be used to the best advantage.

## THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

On the 1st September, 1954, the Children's Officer and the Children's Department were placed under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Medical and dental examination of children in the family group homes or who are to be boarded out is undertaken by the Department and weekly visits are paid by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the residential nursery at 'The Elms.' Health Visitors undertake visits to the homes of foster-mothers and prospective adopters when required.



## CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL-TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

The local authority implemented the recommendations contained in circular 78/50 and designated the Medical Officer of Health as the officer responsible for liaison and co-ordination in matters affecting children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

The Council also appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Children's Education, Estates and Health Committees to determine questions of a special nature on the subject of the circular at elected representative level.

During the year it has not been found necessary to call this Committee but many cases have been dealt with at officer level with encouraging results.

As most problem families seem eventually to become unhoused and gravitate to the Welfare Home for temporary accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the policy of the Health Committee to set up nine family units of accommodation at the Welfare Home has eased the problem considerably, and has enabled a useful amount of preventive rehabilitation to take place. Further reference to this unit is made under Temporary Accommodation, page 73.

## PREVENTION OF BREAK - UP OF FAMILIES.

Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 led to a review of those local authority services and personnel who are in a position to see the first signs of family breakdown and who may be able to help. The situation is simplified by the unified control of Health, Welfare and Children's Services. Thus there is complete liaison within the Department between the Children's Officer and her case workers, the Welfare Services Section and its officers in charge of temporary accommodation as mentioned above, the Assistant Medical Officers of Health, Health Visitors, School Nurses and the Mental Health Services.

The Day - 24 hour Nursery has also played a part when parents have been unable easily to care for their children for brief periods.

The Home Help Service is involved in this to a minor degree due to the high incidence of cost which is liable to fall upon the family.

A close liaison is maintained with all local voluntary agencies and officials of government departments who come into contact with cases of child neglect.

## HOME NURSING.

The Home Nursing Service has continued to function from the Nurses' Home, New Market Street. Difficulty continues to be experienced in obtaining nurses who are willing to be resident in the home. At present only the Superintendent, her deputy and one nurse are in residence. The opportunity has been taken to offer accommodation in the building to other members of the Health Department staff, and this has helped to keep the costs of running the home within reasonable limits. In the interests of further economy the possibility of running the service on a wholly non-resident basis from the Health Department has been considered. The building in New Market Street would then be converted into flats for the use of nursing and other staff of the Department.

There have so far been no requests by the area paediatrician for the district nurses to undertake the care of children discharged from hospital.

It has been observed that adult hospital patients are now frequently discharged home earlier than previously and receive nursing attention at home.

The number of injections required to be given for many various conditions takes up a very considerable part of the nurses' time. The total number for the year was 26,803 and these entailed many special visits.

#### TRANSPORT

The two Ford cars provided for the nurses continue to give invaluable service and assist materially in maintaining an efficient, economical nursing service.

Reg. No.	Mileage	Petrol Galls.	Oil Pints	Average M.P.G.	M.P.P.
AJP 275	9023	389	62	23.2	146
AJP 334	8406	383	22	22.0	382
	17429	772	84	22.6	208

Bicycles are provided and an allowance of 5/- per week is made towards maintenance if a nurse provides her own autocycle.

The establishment remains as in previous years—one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent and eleven nurses, two of whom are male nurses.

The following is a record of the work done during 1955 :—

No. of cases on the books on 1st January, 1955	....	....	....	270
No. of new cases during 1955	....	....	....	1640
No. of visits paid by the nurses	....	....	....	48285
No. of cases ceased to be visited :—				
Now convalescent	....	....	....	609
Removed to hospital	....	....	....	182
Deaths	....	....	....	189
Other reasons	....	....	....	612
			—	1,592
No of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1955				318

A classification of cases attended during 1955 will be found as an appendix to this report on pages 108–110.

#### REFRESHER COURSES.

One nurse is sent each year to a Refresher Course organised by the Queen's Institute of District Nurses. No arrangements exist for the local training of district nurses.

#### NURSING EQUIPMENT

A stock of nursing equipment and apparatus is provided at the Home in New Market Street. This service is available upon request to members of the public at any time during the day or evening and a nominal weekly charge is made as it has been found that without this the equipment is not returned in reasonable time.

The issue of this loan equipment adds an unnecessary burden to the work of the Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service. In consequence arrangements have been made to transfer the issue of loan goods to the Health Office.



## VACCINATION

The following vaccinations were carried out during 1955 :—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 yrs. inclusive	5-14 yrs. inclusive	Over 15 yrs.	TOTAL
Primary ....	270	20	16	12	43	361
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	1	46	47
TOTALS ....	270	20	16	13	89	408
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

270 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during the year. Comparing this figure with the number of births during the same period, it will be seen that only 24 per cent of the infants were vaccinated.

## IMMUNISATION

Preventive inoculation against Diphtheria has been offered in the Borough since December, 1936, for children of pre-school and school age. The use of a combined vaccine giving protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough was introduced in the clinics in July, 1954.

Although the local health authority expend time and money on joining in with the national advertising campaigns, the Health Visitor with her personal approach is the spearhead of the drive for a high level of primary protection against Diphtheria, while the school nurse is in a unique position to coax the reluctant parent of the primary school child to agree to the child receiving a booster dose of prophylactic.

Inoculation carried out during 1955 :—

DIPHTHERIA :	M. & C.W. Clinic	School Clinic	Private Doctors	TOTAL
Primary ....	13	377	46	436
Re-inoculation	—	918	12	930
	13	1295	58	1366

COMBINED DIPHTHERIA AND PERTUSSIS :

Primary ....	490	—	186	676
Re-inoculation	—	—	13	13
	490	—	199	689

PERTUSSIS :

Primary ....	150	—	28	178
--------------	-----	---	----	-----

	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	TOTAL.
Estimated present child population immunised against Diphtheria	33%	55%	49%	49%
Estimated present child population immunised against Pertussis ....	33%	27%	18%	7%

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

### INTRODUCTION.

The agency agreement operated by the service on behalf of the Lancashire County Council terminated on the 16th October, 1955, when the new station at Billinge was opened.

This has once again had the effect of producing statistics that can only be compared in a general way. However, using the figures for the previous years of 1953 and 1954, it will be seen that a small reduction in the average miles run per patient has been achieved.

*Average Miles per Patient.		Average Miles per Patient.
Wigan and L.C.C. combined. Excluding other repayment work.		Including Wigan and L.C.C. and all repayable accounts.
1953	.... 6.3	5.5
1954	.... 5.9	4.6
1955	.... 5.7	3.8

\* This work includes the following : Mentally Defective Children ; Welfare Services ; Gas and Air Analgesia ; Hospital Management Committee ; Civil Defence ; Midwives' Transport and calls from other Authorities.

The statistics for the Wigan Borough show a large increase in the number of Street Accidents of all types and would tend to reflect the general rise throughout the country. An increase of 1,820 patients in " other cases " which includes normal admissions, discharges and clinic cases is shown, and it is for this class of patient that the service provides the bulk of its resources.

Difficulty is still experienced in meeting all the demands made in the conveyance of patients to medical establishments outside the Borough, especially those patients having different appointment times for out-patient treatment and consultations in Manchester.

### AMBULANCE' STATION.

The erection of additional hutted accommodation to supplement the domestic side of the station has been deferred until such time as the present restrictions on capital expenditure are lifted.

Buildings and garages have been maintained as required.

### COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

All members of the service, the Borough Police and a considerable number of Civil Defence Volunteers were instructed on the correct manner of approaching crashed aircraft, the method of entry and the removal of the occupants. Emphasis was laid on the dangers to rescuers of the ejection seats fitted to planes of the Allied Air Forces and instruction was given on how these seats may be rendered harmless.

Members of the service accompanied a party, under arrangements made by the Civil Defence Officer, to the Royal Naval Air Station, Stretton, on Saturday, 5th March, 1955, where modern aircraft were inspected and demonstrated.



## CIVIL DEFENCE.

Considering the flux state of the division during the year, due to the new training arrangements, the Ambulance and Casualty Collecting Section has kept very active.

Pending receipt of the new syllabus and the training of a Section Instructor, a temporary training programme was drawn up.

This programme included many speakers from other services and organisations closely linked with the work of the section.

The Ambulance Officer successfully completed a course of instruction at a Home Office School later in the year and was awarded a full certificate.

Two small exercises were carried out during the year with members of the St. Helens Ambulance Casualty Collecting Section, the first in Wigan and the second in St. Helens. Both exercises were highly instructive.

No driving instruction has been given during the year under review. This is in part due to the late delivery of the replacement vehicle being received from the builders before a vehicle from the fleet could be released and a minor administrative difficulty.

The vehicle eventually released from the fleet, JP 8187 was in a good state of body and mechanical repair and it is anticipated that instruction on this vehicle will commence in the new year.

Two courses of First Aid have been conducted during the year. In the first course 15 members who sat the examination received awards and in the second 2 of the 11 who sat failed to satisfy the examiner.

## VEHICLES.

One new Bedford-Lomas Ambulance BJP 947 was received during the year and has proved to be a most satisfactory vehicle.

Ambulance JP 8187 has been transferred from the Health to Civil Defence Committee to be used for the training of volunteers.

Ambulances EK 9595 and JP 3397 have been disposed of in accordance with the decision of the Health Committee.

All repairs and maintenance have been carried out at Transport Department on a mileage and as required basis.

A total of 11,272 gallons of petrol and 104 $\frac{5}{8}$  gallons of oil have been consumed for a total of 144,856 miles run.

An analysis per vehicle is attached as an appendix.

### AGE OF VEHICLES IN YEARS.

Under one year	One to two years	Two to three years	Three to four years	Four to five years	Five to Six years	Six to seven years	Seven to eight years
1	1	2	1	1	2	—	1

## TOTAL MILEAGE RUN BY EACH VEHICLE.

Registered Number	Year of Purchase	Make	Type	Total Mileage Run
AEK 432	1953	Bedford	Ambulance (Clinic)	46,699
JP 9609	1952	Bedford	Ambulance	70,489
AJP 500	1954	Daimler	Ambulance	25,362
JP 8560	1950	Bedford	Ambulance	111,797
JP 7252	1948	Austin	Ambulance	92,543
BJP 947	1955	Bedford	Ambulance	4,217
JP 8879	1951	Bedford	Ambulance (Clinic)	91,950
JP 8800	1950	Bedford	Ambulance	42,708
AEK 319	1953	Austin	Car	78,498

All vehicles of the fleet are powered by petrol engines and have given every satisfaction. In view of the recommendations made by the Ministry of Health in the interest of economy, the question of whether future engine replacements should be of the diesel type will have to be considered and in 1956 tests will be made with this end in view.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

All radio-telephone equipment and the mast have been serviced and inspected according to the maintenance agreements entered into with the manufacturers.

During the year under review it has been clearly demonstrated that the operational efficiency of the service is greatly increased by the use of this equipment.

## PATIENTS CARRIED AND MILEAGE INCURRED—JAN., 1955—DEC. 1955.

	No. of Patients.	No. of Journeys	No. of Miles.
County Borough of Wigan ....	19,801	—	103,146
Lancashire County Council ....	2,386	—	21,491
Other Authorities ....	11	—	211
W.C.B. Mentally Defective Children ....	12,596	—	9,134
L.C.C. Mentally Defective Children ....	2,620	—	6,044
Gas and Air Analgesia ....	—	118	346
Welfare Services ....	796	—	34,402
Service Journeys ....	—	190	832
Hospital Management ....	—	1	23
Civil Defence ....	—	5	57
Service Journeys, L.C.C. ....	—	15	168
TOTAL ....	38,210	329	144,856

## ANALYSIS

County Borough of Wigan.					L.C. Council.	
Patients Carried.					Patients Carried.	Mileage.
Maternity....	....	....	504	5,423	57	632
Street Accidents	....	....	444	1,725	42	334
Home Accidents	....	....	130	561	5	47
Works Accidents	....	....	91	378	3	34
Street Illnesses	....	....	214	742	6	50
Home Illnesses	....	....	46	220	2	20
Works Illnesses	....	....	25	145	—	—
Authorised Officers	....		83	2,098	4	154
Infectious Diseases	....		537	2,016	5	64
National Coal Board	....		18	115	2	19
Deceased Persons	....	....	28	167	3	44
Other Cases	....	....	17,681	89,556	2,257	20,093
			19,801	103,146	2,386	21,491

GROSS MILEAGE for the year ended 31st December, 1955 : 144,856 miles.

PETROL AND OIL CONSUMPTION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955 :

						Galls.
Petrol Supplied by the Wigan Transport Department	....	....				11,144
Petrol Supplied by Other Authorities	....	....	....	....	....	128
TOTAL						11,272

Vehicle	Make	Registered Number	Mileage	Petrol Galls.	Oil Pints	Average M.P.G.	M.P.P.
1	Bedford	AEK 432	16,789	1,377	93	12.2	180.5
2	Bedford	JP 9609	21,783	1,567	113	13.9	192.8
3	Daimler	AJP 500	10,990	1,142	32	9.6	343.4
4	Bedford	JP 8560	15,806	1,301	63	12.1	250.8
5	Austin	JP 7252	9,117	873	79	10.4	115.4
6	Bedford	JP 8187	12,871	1,022	96	12.6	134.0
7	Bedford	JP 8879	18,433	1,368	166	13.4	111.0
8	Bedford	JP 8800	9,690	840	65	11.5	149.0
9	Austin	JP 3397	474	59	17	8.0	27.9
Car	Austin	AEK 319	24,686	1,393	95	17.7	259.8
6	Bedford	BJP 947	4,217	330	18	12.8	234.3
			144,856	11,272	837	12.8	173.0



## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### HEALTH EDUCATION

Each month, 1,150 copies of the journal " Better Health " are distributed in the district.

Classes for mothers are held each week at the Central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Propaganda regarding Diphtheria immunisation has been carried out in conjunction with the National Campaign.

Efforts are being maintained to bring to the notice of the public, and especially to food handlers, the need for cleanliness and care in the preparation of food.

Measures for the dissemination of information to the public are being developed. They include publication of literature, display of posters, etc., and opportunities are taken to give lectures on various health subjects from time to time. Lack of suitably qualified personnel is the limiting factor at the present time.

A subscription is paid each year by the Borough Council to the Central Council for Health Education. This enables us to receive from the Central Council much valuable help and information as to the best methods of approaching the public.

### CONVALESCENCE

During the year 1955, no case requiring convalescence was dealt with under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

### VENEREAL DISEASE

The treatment of Venereal Diseases is the responsibility of the Hospital service, and in Wigan the clinic is under the direction of Dr. Philip S. Silver, M.R.S., L.R.C.P.

#### NO. OF WIGAN CASES DEALT WITH FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE V.D.

		TREATMENT CENTRES.								
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Syphilis ....	74	27	29	37	21	23	11	4	11	12
Gonorrhoea	113	49	29	33	22	9	9	13	10	13
Other										
Conditions	119	108	91	86	69	62	41	59	36	39
TOTAL ....	306	184	149	156	112	94	61	76	57	64

The Health Committee have continued their arrangements whereby the V.D. Orderly of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary undertakes the duties of Almoner.

Efforts are made to persuade persons who are a source of infection to attend for treatment at the centre. Contact is made with patients who fail to attend for treatment with a view to stressing the importance of continued attendance at the clinic. The work done by the Almoner has been found to produce satisfactory results.

The following is an extract from the Almoner's report for the year 1955 :—

Total number of contacts persuaded to attend were :—

Males 8 ; Females 20.

Patients failing to attend for treatment, etc., are the biggest problem and the following action has been taken to try and persuade them to attend.

177 letters were sent to patients failing to attend.

132 reported for treatment, etc.

1 left district.

11 transferred to clinics near their present address.

2 patients admitted to other hospitals.

7 patients transferred to other clinics as in need of treatment, but not suffering from V.D.

6 patients died.

5 patients failed to attend after completion of treatment but before final test.

3 patients defaulted before completion of treatment.

7 patients who had previously defaulted returned for treatment.

16 personal visits were made to the home addresses of patients who failed to attend after several letters had been sent.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

Statistical information regarding the prevalence of and mortality from tuberculosis will be found in that section of the Report dealing with infectious diseases.

The Tuberculosis Visitor is a full-time member of the Local Authority Health Visiting Staff, the work of this health visitor being divided between attendance with the Chest Physician at the Dispensary and visiting patients in their homes.

During the year, 1,721 home visits were paid by the tuberculosis health visitor.

The number of new contacts examined during the past three years was as follows :—

1953			1954			1955		
Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
125	135	260	182	155	337	116	108	224

Contacts of positive cases under supervision, 31st December, 1955 .... 435

Contacts under supervision after B.C.G. inoculation .... 265

The average number of contacts per case of pulmonary T.B. is as follows :—

NOTIFICATIONS :			1953	1954	1955
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	....	....	67	81	55
Other forms	....	....	16	7	11
No. of contacts per case (pulmonary only)			3.8	4.2	4.1



All cases of death from respiratory tuberculosis which remained un-notified during life are the subject of special contact investigations.

The responsibility of the Council for providing care and after-care services at present is being discharged through a voluntary Care Committee. The aims of this Committee may be stated as follows :—

1. To provide extra nourishments, nursing utensils, wheel chairs, etc.
2. To help in providing extra clothing needed by the patients, especially when they go into sanatorium and on their return home.
3. To visit and give friendly advice.
4. To assist in educating public opinion in matters of health in regard to Tuberculosis.
5. To give assistance in providing tools in cases where tuberculous persons entering into employment are not so assisted by the Ministry of Labour.

The Chest Physician acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee.

During the year arrangements were continued for organised classes in all manner of light craft work and sewing. These were well attended and should form a prominent feature of the work of the Committee in the future, although we lack a suitable building where fixed equipment can be erected.

#### HOUSING OF TUBERCULOUS CASES.

During the year 19 cases of Infectious Tuberculosis and 2 families residing in houses where this disease was known to exist were re-housed in accommodation which ensured adequate isolation. Visits were paid to a large number of dwellings following reports of suspected tuberculosis and a thorough investigation was carried out in each case.

In every instance contact was made with the Consultant Chest Physician who gave every assistance in arriving at a decision as to the degree of priority to be given in each case submitted to the Committee.

#### REHABILITATION

Very few known sputum positive cases are actually employed in permanent positions, and constant supervision by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor ensures that these few do not become a danger to other susceptible groups.

Cases who are fit for light work are referred to the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer with suitable recommendation.

Patients have been admitted for training and colonization at Barrowmere Hall, the local health authority undertaking part maintenance.

#### BACILLE CALMETTE GUERIN VACCINATION

At present this is limited to hospital staff, contacts and children of infected families. The Chest Physician has supplied the following figures showing the numbers dealt with during 1955 :—

Children under 15 years of age :—

Total No.

Skin Patch tested	Doctors Requests	Contacts	Positive	Negative	B.C.G. Vaccinated
272	106	166	123	149	48

40 children were re-patchtested after B.C.G.—all showed a positive skin reaction.

These figures do not include work carried out amongst hospital staff.



## MENTAL ILLNESS AND DEFECTIVENESS

Details of work under this section are given under Mental Health Service, page 50.

## OTHER ILLNESSES

Close liaison between the health visitors and the social worker engaged on work amongst the physically handicapped under the Council's scheme ensured that advice and help are readily available to those in need once their condition becomes known to the Department.

## MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE.

A Scheme (within the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946) for the delivery of a mid-day meal to individuals unable, because of illness or physical disability, to provide their own was put into operation in May, 1951.

Members of the Women's Voluntary Services take part in the delivery of the meals and we are much indebted to them for the service they have given.

The meals were prepared by the School Meals Service.

The food is served in individual covered containers. The charge per meal is 1s. 4d., but in necessitous cases it is reduced to 10d.

8,843 meals were provided during the year.

A maximum of three meals per week are provided in each case and the service is greatly appreciated.

Besides its value in preventing malnutrition, a regular visit by an interested voluntary worker and a member of the staff of the department has a beneficial effect on the morale of the recipients who feel that they are not forgotten and can ask for help if they require it.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Only one help is employed full time and at the end of the year 37 part-time helps were on the register.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of families availing themselves of the Service. During 1955 domestic help was provided in 460 cases—58 confinements, 5 tuberculous, 380 chronic sick including aged and infirm and 17 others—compared with a total of 356 in 1954.

The Service is operating very satisfactorily and along with the Home Nursing Service plays an important part in relieving the shortage of hospital beds especially for chronic aged cases, which now form the bulk of the work.

The Home Help and Meals on Wheels Services form the backbone of the department's effort to maintain the aged in their own homes and so relieve pressure on Part III Hostel beds. Any expenditure on these services must therefore be looked upon as an economy in the long run.

## MENTAL HEALTH

No major alterations to the service have been made during the year. The service includes :—

- (i) The ascertainment of cases of mental ill-health and mental deficiency in the community.
- (ii) The initial proceedings for obtaining detention and reception orders and transferring persons of unsound mind to establishments administered by the Regional Hospital Board.
- (iii) The statutory supervision, guardianship, provision of after-care, etc. of mental defectives, living in the community.
- (iv) The provision of occupational treatment for mental illness.
- (v) Preventive measures in connection with Mental Health.

### ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Health Committee is responsible for the control of this service and deals with all matters appertaining thereto.

(b) The Medical Officer of Health is the Executive Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. McL. Bain, Assistant Medical Officer and Dr. D. M. Mather, are appointed as approved medical practitioners for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. D. M. Mather, Medical Officer at Billinge Hospital, Dr. J. S. Mather and Dr. D. N. Mackinnon, general practitioners with extensive experience of mental illness, are appointed as approved for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Section 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Two full-time authorised officers and mental health visitors (one male and one female) and also one full-time male authorised officer and clerk are employed in the service. All have received special courses of instruction either before or subsequent to appointment.

A vacancy still exists for a psychiatric social worker but little success has attended our efforts to fill this post.

The staff of the Occupation Centre consists of one supervisor (who holds a certificate of recognition as an experienced worker), a deputy supervisor who has obtained the Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, three Assistant Supervisors, one whole-time and one part-time guide-help.

Co-ordination is maintained with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees, the local authority providing all appropriate reports. The Medical Superintendent of Brockhall Mental Deficiency Institution is available for consultation on cases of mental deficiency which present special difficulty.

The opinion of the Consultant Psychiatrist employed by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee is sought by the Department, more especially on clinical matters and the after-care of patients discharged from hospital.

Arrangements have continued for liaison between the hospital psychiatric clinic and the local authority service. A duly authorised officer and mental health visitor (female) who has extensive experience of psychiatric social work, obtains the social histories of all cases living within the borough. This officer also attends at the clinic and receives the psychiatrist's instructions regarding after-care.

#### ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

Visits to Office by relatives and patients for advice	....	....	152
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#### 1.—UNDER LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

Cases notified	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	151
----------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----

Notified cases dealt with as follows :—

Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890	....	....	....	....	....	28
Section 21 Lunacy Act, 1890	....	....	....	....	....	47
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	....					71
Section 30 Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952	....	....	....			1
Admitted to Hospital as ordinary sick cases	....	....	....			1
No action taken	....	....	....	....	....	3
						<hr/> 151 <hr/>

Cases admitted to hospital under Sec. 20 and 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 were dealt with as follows :—

Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	....	....	....	....	....	9
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	....					50
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	....					2
Discharged following expiration of order under Sec. 21 (A)						
Lunacy Act, 1890	....	....	....	....	....	4
Discharged following expiration of order....	....	....	....			2
Died	....	....	....	....	....	5
Still under Sec. 21 (A) at 31/12/55	....	....	....	....		3
						<hr/> 75 <hr/>



No. of cases visited under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	118
No. of visits under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	380
Social Histories for Wigan Infirmary Psychiatric Clinic	108
No. of cases in Mental Hospitals on 31/12/55	299
Discharges from hospitals	135
Deaths	11

## 2.—UNDER THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 - 1938.

Cases in M.D. Hospitals at 31/12/55	85
Cases under Guardianship Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913	1
Cases under Statutory Supervision	100
Cases under Voluntary Supervision	11
Cases under training (occupation centres) Sec. 30 M.D. Act, 1913	36

### Cases admitted to hospitals :—

Sec. 8 M.D. Act., 1913	2
------------------------	---

### Short term care of Mental Defectives, Sec. 28 National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Admitted to National Health Service Hospitals	1
Admitted to Short Stay Homes	2
Special Reports made on behalf of M.D. Hospitals	42
Home Visits	359

### Particulars of cases reported during the year 1955 : Ascertainment.

#### (a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 57 Education Act, 1944

(i) Under Sec. 57 (3) Education Act, 1944	7
(ii) Under Sec. 57 (5) Education Act, 1944 : On leaving ordinary schools	5

(b) Other ascertained defectives	3
(c) Other reported cases not at present subject to be dealt with	1

---

16

### Disposal of cases reported during the year.

Placed under Statutory Supervision	13
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	1
Admitted to hospitals	2

---

16

Number of Mental Defectives in Hospitals, under Community Care including Voluntary Supervision or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1955, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1955 :—

(a) Ceased to be under care	....	....	....	....	....	3
(b) Died, removed or lost sight of	....	....	....	....	....	2
						<hr/> 5 <hr/>

Number who have given birth to children during 1955 :—

(i) After marriage	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(ii) While unmarried	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

Number who married during 1955

Cases awaiting admission to hospital at 31/12/55

### 3.—PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The Mental Health Officers concern themselves with the after-care of patients discharged from psychiatric clinics and mental hospitals. Attempts are made to tackle the tremendous problem of the prevention of mental illness. At present, shortage of staff confines us to domiciliary visiting in a friendly capacity and arranging social contacts for unstable patients.

The case workers usually accompany the patients to psychiatric clinics. Thus they are able to help the psychiatrist in the matter of the patient's social background and environment.

## OCCUPATION CENTRE

The Occupation Centre, Hope School, which was formally opened during 1954 continues to be a source of inspiration to the staff and the envy of numerous visitors from home and overseas who have had the opportunity of inspecting the buildings and seeing the work.

In my last report I commented upon the need for further accommodation for the older boys and girls and during the year it has been possible to buy an adjacent plot of land which will give ample room for extension when the economic wind blows fair and we are able to proceed.

The numbers of children attending have been gradually built up and the training given is of an extremely high standard. During the year students attending the course of training for supervisors and assistant supervisors run by the National Association for Mental Health in Manchester have been accepted in Wigan for practical training.

The following is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough.	County.	Total.
No. of Children on the register at 1st Jan., 1955 ....	34	27	61
No. of admissions during the year ....	8	5	13
No. of children who ceased to attend ....	6	5	11
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1955 ....	36	27	63
Average daily attendance during the year ....	31	25	56



## CO-ORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

No material changes have occurred during the year and the machinery for co-ordination of the three branches of the Health Service in this area, is adequate. The Liaison Committee representing the three branches of the Service in the Borough and the surrounding county area continues to meet at regular intervals and matters of common interest are discussed. As an indication of the scope of the discussions, I give below a number of items occurring on the agendas during the year :—

1. Arrangements for group A.B.O. testing of expectant mothers.
2. Use of sitting case cars for hospital technicians called to the hospital outside normal working hours.
3. Information regarding Local Health Authority Services to be included in baby books issued by Billinge Hospital Ante Natal Clinic.
4. Accommodation for female chronic sick patients at Billinge Hospital.
5. Hygiene in hospital catering departments.
6. Administrative arrangements in connection with the establishment of Part II Midwifery Training School at Billinge Hospital.

Apart from such official meetings the keynote throughout the year in each section of the Health Department has been to further effective co-operation with the Hospital and General Practitioner Services and evidence of this appears under the headings of the various sections in this report.

Perhaps the greatest problem which besets us is how to overcome the partisan attitude of "yours and ours" which crops up during discussions on sundry aspects of the Health Services. One could instance the infant who is fought over by all three services, each jealously guarding its "rights" and the patients "confidences," or the expectant mother beset by the same triad. Perhaps the most pitiful is the aged person, too ill for Hostel accommodation, too well for the hospital bed, and the despair of the general practitioner who knows he should not be lying at home.

The essence of co-operation in these cases does not lie in memoranda and the tedious machinery of committees but rather the consultant, the local authority services and the general practitioner should accept the problems collectively. It is pleasing to report in this connection that in this area we have gone a long way towards achieving this ideal and given goodwill and mutual confidence there is no reason why the problems which still beset us should not be resolved to the benefit of all concerned, especially the patients.



*Section IV*

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**Prevalence of  
and  
Control over  
Infectious Disease**



Our experience of notifiable infectious diseases has been light. Three cases of poliomyelitis were notified. These were unconnected and apart from one case in a school child, no special administrative action was called for. An interesting problem arose in connection with the school child who was attending a primary school. Due to the difficulties attending early diagnosis, notification of this case was delayed for several days after the onset. Immediate investigation was commenced at the school, when it was apparent that seventeen of the children, mostly in the same class as the case, were suffering from an acute gastro intestinal condition, characterized by pyrexia, sore throat, diarrhoea and vomiting. This condition seemed to clear up under simple treatment in about four days. The medical staff of the department visited each absentee in consultation with the family doctor in an effort to decide whether we were dealing with early cases of abortive or non-paralytic poliomyelitis or whether, in fact, the gastro-intestinal syndrome was a separate clinical entity. Bacteriological investigation disclosed no casual organisms; virus identification was not attempted but no further cases of poliomyelitis were confirmed among the children or their contacts.

Stringent precautions were taken in school to isolate the affected group as far as possible and talks on personal hygiene were given to the staff and children.

There were nine cases of dysentery and three cases of food poisoning notified, whilst scarlet fever produced forty-four cases and whooping cough ninety-eight.

Measles seemed to revert to its bi-annual epidemic pattern with over one thousand four hundred cases reported between March and July, the peak month being May when four hundred and fifty-five cases were notified.

#### CONTROL OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT SPREAD INFECTION

When cases suffering from intestinal infection are notified they are immediately visited by a doctor, health visitor or sanitary inspector from the department according to the severity and type of the disease. Food handlers are excluded from employment, usually by a voluntary agreement, and contacts are advised to seek employment in innocuous tasks until the danger period is past. It is pleasing to report that there is complete co-operation with the food trade on these points.

Where necessary, loss of earnings can be prevented by a certificate under the National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Regulations, 1948. The appropriate section reads as follows:

“A person who is not incapable of work shall, if an insurance officer, a local tribunal or the Commissioner, as the case may be, so determines, be deemed to be incapable of work by reason of some specific disease or bodily or mental disablement for any day on which he satisfies the conditions specified below, *namely*:

that he is excluded from work on the certificate of a medical officer of health of a local authority; and that he is under medical observation by reason of his being a carrier, or having been in contact with a case, of infectious disease.”

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953:

These regulations permit the authority to authorise the Medical Officer of Health to require persons engaged in occupations connected with the preparation of food or drink to refrain from the work if suffering from or shown to be carriers of Typhoid, Para-typhoid or other Salmonella infections or Dysentery or Staphylococcal infection likely to cause Food Poisoning. The regulations came into force on the 1st April, 1953, and the Medical Officer of Health was authorised by the Committee to take action when necessary. No action was taken under these regulations during the year.

## NOTIFICATIONS

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED																								
	AGE GROUPS										WARD RESIDENCE														
	At all Ages	under 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	St. George	Lindsay	St. Cath.	St. Patrick	St. Thomas	Poolstock	Victoria	St. Andrew	Swinley	All Saints	West Pem.	North Pem.	Central Pem.	South Pem.	
Acute Polioencephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-Paralytic	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria and Memb. Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ... ..	9	—	1	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles ... ..	1400	57	419	466	455	3	—	—	—	—	30	52	65	98	64	78	71	101	61	18	268	135	216	143	
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ... ..	19	4	1	1	2	—	1	4	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	4	1	1	1	1	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	44	—	5	16	17	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	2	1	—	11	8	—	5	4	2	3	
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	55	—	2	1	1	2	15	13	6	—	2	1	1	5	6	—	6	9	8	1	3	7	3	3	
Other Forms	12	—	—	1	1	1	3	4	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	2	2	
Whooping Cough ... ..	89	13	24	19	32	1	—	—	—	—	2	8	7	13	1	5	4	8	1	—	10	9	17	4	
TOTALS	1641	75	453	507	513	12	22	21	26	12	36	64	76	124	74	84	81	134	89	20	291	156	249	613	



## ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS BY MONTHS, 1955

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles ...	7	29	135	286	435	376	88	32	5	2	3	2	1400
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	6	1	1	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	19
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	5	1	8	2	3	4	1	5	3	4	5	3	44
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	8	7	1	—	2	10	8	4	5	6	2	2	55
Other Forms ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	1	1	3	12
Whooping Cough ...	9	9	1	2	15	12	11	6	6	9	9	—	89
	38	49	148	303	463	405	111	47	23	22	21	11	1641

## COMPARATIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

DISEASE	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic...	—	—	—	—	5	—	2	5	—	1
Non-Paralytic ...	—	24	1	1	2	2	1	1	—	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	59	27	8	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	1	—	60	3	7	1	1	106	9
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	8	11	18	14	11	3	9	8	5	4
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3
Measles ...	167	510	1465	321	544	1059	539	1219	271	1400
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	5	4	1	1	3	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	54	31	45	73	89	97	69	28	24	19
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	2	4	4	4	1	1	—	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	93	532	839	146	138	85	44	180	155	44
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	101	86	79	72	73	73	56	67	81	55
Other Forms ...	22	27	24	12	14	21	15	16	7	12
Whooping Cough ...	111	31	104	157	106	202	29	278	55	89
	625	1294	2595	862	991	1554	768	1808	708	1641



## TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS, 1955

## FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS

			Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis													
			0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total (all ages)
Respiratory—Males	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	4	1	8	6	5	—	33
Respiratory—Females	...	...	—	—	2	1	1	4	4	6	2	—	1	—	1	22
Non-Respiratory—Males	...	...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Non-Respiratory—Female...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	7

CASES COMING TO THE NOTICE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
OTHERWISE THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION

SOURCE OF INFORMATION				0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total
Death Returns from Local Registrars	Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1A
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—B
	Non-Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D
Death Returns from Registrar General-Trans- ferable Deaths	Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—A
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—B
	Non-Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D
Posthumous Notifications	Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—A
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—B
	Non-Resp.	M	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—C
		F	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—D

TOTALS : A—1, B—0, C—0, D—0.

## NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN WARDS

WARDS	Estimated Population	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	TOTALS	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	Other forms of Tuber- culosis	TOTALS
No. 1—St. George ...	2252	2	1	3	1	—	1
No. 2—Lindsay ...	4568	2	1	3	1	—	1
No. 3—St. Catharine ...	5240	1	1	2	1	—	1
No. 4—St. Patrick...	5963	6	2	8	2	—	2
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	2368	5	—	5	—	—	—
No. 6—Poolstock ...	3617	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 7—Victoria ...	2740	6	—	6	—	—	—
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	16025	11	2	13	2	1	3
No. 9—Swinley ...	9972	6	1	7	—	—	—
No. 10—All Saints ...	2014	1	—	1	—	—	—
No. 11—West Pemberton	6857	3	1	4	1	—	—
No. 12—North ”	6300	6	—	6	1	—	1
No. 13—Central ”	9050	3	1	4	1	—	1
No. 14—South ”	5784	3	2	5	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	82750	55	12	67	10	1	11

Estimated Population of Wards is based on current Voters' List.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955

AGE PERIODS :	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ... ..	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
5— ... ..	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
15— ... ..	7	8	2	1	—	—	—	—
25— ... ..	5	8	1	3	2	2	—	—
45— ... ..	14	1	—	2	4	—	1	—
65— ... ..	5	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
75— ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	33	22	5	7	7	3	1	—

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 10, against 24 in 1954, and 20 in 1953. The number of deaths from other tubercular infections was 1, against 1 in 1954, and 1 in 1953.

The rates are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .... 0.12 per 1,000 of population.  
 Other Tuberculous Diseases .... 0.01 per 1,000 of population.

If taken together as tuberculous infections, we have 11 deaths or a rate of 0.13 per 1,000 of the population.

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1951 TO 1955

## CASES NOTIFIED

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pulmonary ....	73	56	67	81	55
Other forms of tuberculosis	21	15	16	7	12
TOTAL ....	94	71	83	88	67

## DEATHS :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pulmonary ....	35	10	20	24	10
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	4	1	1	1
TOTAL ....	36	14	21	25	11

## DEATH RATES :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pulmonary ....	0.42	0.12	0.24	0.29	0.12
Other forms of tuberculosis	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01
TOTAL ....	0.43	0.17	0.25	0.30	0.13



## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY IN WIGAN COUNTY BOROUGH SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER, 1954

I am indebted to the Medical Director of No. 4 Mass Radiography Unit for the following report of the visit of No. 4 and No. 6 Units to Wigan.

A Mass Miniature Radiography Survey was conducted in the County Borough of Wigan during the months September to December, 1954 (13 weeks). Two Units, Nos. 4 and 6, co-operated in this survey, No. 4 having a mobile role visiting the larger factories, mills, etc., and No. 6 operating as a static unit in the town centre catering for the general public and conveniently situated firms. A total of 27,790 persons volunteered for examination.

A previous M.M.R. Survey of Wigan in 1950 (22 weeks) was carried out by one static unit operating at Eckersley's Mill, and on that occasion 15,437 examinations were made.

The finding of suitable accommodation for the static unit proved to be one of the major difficulties in the organisation of the survey. Eventually, the use of the Territorial Army Drill Hall in Powell Street was procured. Although these premises were quite well situated they were not available for as long as we would have desired. It is thought probable that more of the general public would have been examined had the static unit been able to conduct open sessions for a longer period. Office accommodation for the mobile unit was kindly provided by the Hospital Management Committee at 3, Mesnes Park Terrace.

Co-operation from the local authority and the Hospital Management Committee was of the highest order and, in particular, we would like to express our appreciation to Dr. J. Haworth Hilditch, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. E. H. W. Deane, the Consultant Chest Physician, and their respective staffs for all the valuable assistance which was given.

The number examined represents approximately one-third of the total population of the Borough and approximately 40% of the available population (children under 11 were not examined except for special reasons). The results of the survey are set out in the attached tables.

### NOTES ON THE TABLES

TABLE 1 is an analysis of the persons examined, sub-divided into age groups and type of examinee. It should be noted that this table is based on a 10) sample, computed by the office of the Registrar General.

TABLE 2 shows the diagnosis of persons referred for further investigation. Abnormalities observed and considered non-significant or requiring no action are not included.

### COMMENT

#### INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

(1) The figures show an incidence of 1.9 cases of tuberculosis requiring treatment per thousand persons examined. If school children are excluded the incidence is 2.3 per thousand. When the figures were compiled there were, in addition, 42 persons referred for investigation in whom active tuberculosis had not been excluded after six months observation. There were also 24 cases of presumed inactive tuberculosis requiring clinical supervision.

The following table gives a comparison with figures obtained in recent surveys in two other Lancashire towns :—

			Incidence per thousand	
			All groups	Excluding Children.
WIGAN	Population	No. examined		
....	83,000	28,000	1.9	2.3
ROCHDALE	87,700	28,500	2.1	2.3
....				
BLACKBURN	100,000	33,000	1.5	1.7
....				

(2) It will be seen that the age group 15 to 19 gave the highest proportion of cases (14), but it should be added that 7 of these were found in the Wigan and District Mining and Technical College.

(3) As might have been expected the incidence in school children aged 11 to 15 was low, 2 cases being found in 4,690 children examined, an incidence of 0.42 per thousand.

(4) The incidence in general practitioner cases was high, 14 per thousand, but the numbers examined (21) were disappointingly small.

(5) Perhaps the most significant finding was of 29 cases discovered in 9,200 of the general public examined at open sessions (*i.e.* without appointments), an incidence of 3.1 per thousand. This figure is striking in comparison with an incidence of 1.47 per thousand in the organised groups, *e.g.* through factories and offices.

As a matter of interest 8 of these 29 cases were miners or ex-miners.

*Note.*—In accordance with the Manchester Regional Hospital Board policy miners are not organised to attend for Mass Radiography, but they are of course at liberty to attend with other members of the general public. In view of the generally decreased incidence rates in other groups it might be considered desirable to review the position with regard to the mass x-ray examination of miners.

#### NON-TUBERCULOUS ABNORMALITIES

(1) The high incidence of pneumoconiosis is to be expected in this largely mining community, the rate being 17 per thousand in the male population examined over the age of 35.

(2) In 3,830 males examined over the age of 45, nine malignant tumours were found, an incidence of 2.4 per thousand in this age group.

One malignant tumour was discovered in 3,200 females of the same age group.

#### CONCLUSIONS

If any conclusions can be drawn from a survey of this size they are, perhaps, as follows :

- (1) That open sessions are more profitable in producing cases of active respiratory tuberculosis than the examination of organised groups and, if this is confirmed, future surveys might well be adjusted accordingly.
- (2) That Mass Radiography is still an extremely valuable case finding method.



MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY IN WIGAN COUNTY BOROUGH.  
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER, 1954.

66

TABLE I. ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EXAMINED

TYPE OF EXAMINEE	M A L E S										F E M A L E S												Grand Total
	und. 14	14	15- 19	20- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 59	60- 64	65& lver	Total	und 14	14	15- 19	20- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 59	60- 64	65 & over	Total	
Gen. Practitioner Referrals ... ..	20	—	10	—	30	—	50	(1) 20	—	—	(1) 130	10	—	(1) 10	(1) 10	10	—	20	10	10	—	(2) 80	(3) 210
School Leavers ... ..	1650	630	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2580	(2) 1300	460	350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2) 2110	(2) 4690
Contacts ... ..	300	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300	400	60	20	10	—	20	20	—	—	—	530	830
Factories and Offices ... ..	—	—	(6) 1650	(1) 940	(2) 1740	(2) 1370	(1) 1170	(1) 360	(1) 130	100	(13) 7460	—	—	(3) 1100	(2) 1050	(2) 1100	(1) 1060	810	180	80	20	(6) 5400	(19) 12860
General Public Volunteers : Housewives ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	(2) 80	(2) 640	(2) 620	810	(1) 340	160	300	(7) 2970	(7) 2970
Others ... ..	90	—	(1) 240	(4) 310	(2) 980	(2) 790	(3) 970	(2) 390	(3) 280	(3) 360	(17) 4410	40	—	(3) 350	320	(2) 350	320	270	60	60	50	(5) 1820	(22) 6230
TOTALS ... ..	2060	630	(7) 2200	(5) 1250	(4) 2750	(4) 2160	(3) 2190	(4) 770	(1) 410	(3) 460	(31) 14880	(2) 1750	520	(7) 1850	(5) 1470	(4) 2100	(3) 2020	1930	(1) 590	310	370	(22) 12910	(53) 27790

NOTE.—Figures in brackets show the number of cases of tuberculosis requiring treatment. (See Table III).





TABLE III. TYPES OF EXAMINEES SUFFERING FROM RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS REQUIRING TREATMENT

TYPE OF EXAMINEE	MALES											FEMALES											Grand Total	
	Under 14	14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 & over	Total	Under 14	14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 & over	Total		
General Practitioner Referrals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	(7.69)	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	(25.0)	(14.28)	3
School Leavers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(.94)	(.42)	2
Contacts ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.	68
Factories and Offices ...	—	—	6	1	2	2	—	1	1	—	(1.74)	—	—	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	(1.11)	(1.47)	19
General Public Volunteers : (a) Housewives ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	(2.35)	(2.35)	7
(b) Others ...	—	—	1	4	2	2	3	2	—	3	(3.85)	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	(2.74)	(3.53)	22
TOTALS ...	—	—	(3.18)	(4.0)	(1.45)	(1.85)	(1.37)	(5.19)	(2.44)	(6.52)	(2.08)	(1.14)	—	(3.51)	(3.4)	(1.9)	(1.48)	—	(1.69)	—	—	(1.70)	(1.9)	53

NOTE.—Figures in brackets show rates per thousand examined.

TABLE IV

## HISTORY OF TUBERCULOUS CASES REQUIRING TREATMENT

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Family History ....	1	3	10	13
Contact. Persons are regarded as 'Contacts' if they have <i>at any time</i> been in close contact with a known case of respiratory tuberculosis in the household or the immediate circle of relatives and associates ....	2	2	9	11
Past illness of tuberculous significance, <i>e.g.</i> , Pleurisy, Tuberculous cervical adenitis, Tuberculous erythema nodosum, etc. ....	3	5	4	9
No history, or history not known. (This classification is not used where detail is available under any one of the headings coded 1, 2 or 3) ....	4	24	7	31
History unobtainable ....	5	—	2	2

Where *more than one* possibility is applicable, *all* the code numbers are given.

## DISINFECTION

Arrangements have been made to use the old disinfectant at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane.

Disinfection of rooms has been criticised, and in fact described as a useless procedure. Assuming that disinfection does not totally destroy the infecting organisms, it does impress the persons concerned of the necessity for cleanliness and care, and ensures a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of the rooms, which is doubtless of great hygienic value, especially in dirty houses.

## DISTRIBUTION OF DISINFECTANTS

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious disease has occurred, and in cases where there are exceptional circumstances. Other persons who desire supplies are charged a small amount to meet the cost of the disinfectant.

Information on the correct use of these agents is given by the sanitary inspectors.





*Section V*

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**National Assistance Act, 1948**

*Part III*

**Welfare Services**

## ADMINISTRATION

During the year, the Authority's Welfare Services, under the National Assistance Act, have continued to be controlled by the Health Committee. Two sub-committees have been concerned with the welfare functions as follows :

The Health (Accommodation) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provision of residential and temporary accommodation, with the assistance of aged in their own homes and with the administration of social and handicraft centres.

The Health (Blind and Other Handicapped Persons) Sub-Committee, which deals with the provisions of Welfare Services for the blind and partially sighted, for the deaf and hard of hearing and for the general classes of handicapped persons. All services are administered by the Welfare Services Section of the Department.

## RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Provision is now available for accommodating some 88 persons in small modern Homes and a further 55 in an adapted portion of the former Institution, which has been re-named and improved. In the remainder of the former Institution, there is accommodation for 70 to 80 aged men who require less attention and whose need for care arises principally from their lack of supervised accommodation and elementary comforts. Every care has been taken that a homely and happy atmosphere shall prevail and that residents shall have full independence and freedom of movement. The attainment of such conditions depends largely on the observance of a simple code of conduct, good companionship with fellow residents and co-operation in the smooth running of the Home. Relatives and friends may visit on any day of the week, National Health Services are available, including choice of doctor and visits by a minister of one's own religious denomination is permissible. A Welfare Officer visits the Homes at least once each week to assist residents as necessary regarding any personal matters which might be causing them concern. An analysis of the ages of persons accommodated in the Council's Homes at the 31st December, 1955, shows a very high average and is an indication of the age at which so many old folk require care and attention which is not available to them in their own homes.

Age	Douglas Bank		Norley Hall		Rockwood		St. Stephen's	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Over 90	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
85-90 ....	—	5	2	1	—	—	5	2
80-85 ....	2	6	5	7	—	2	6	8
75-80 ....	2	5	6	5	4	4	4	5
70-75 ....	1	5	3	2	3	1	7	4
65-70 ....	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	—
Infirm ....	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	8
Average Ages	80		79		75		81	

Overall Average Age 79.



## TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The problem of the provision of temporary accommodation for persons in need of it owing to circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen or in such other circumstances as determined in any particular case, is not likely to be solved for some considerable time. This provision was intended to cover persons temporarily without accommodation as a result of such circumstances as fire, flood or eviction, and the Scheme made by the Council requires that accommodation should be kept available for this purpose. The adaptations to the former Institution have provided self-contained accommodation for 9 families who provide their own food and receive fuel and lodging from the Corporation. During the year, 1 man, 4 women and 8 children were admitted to temporary accommodation and 2 men, 6 women and 17 children were discharged to other accommodation. At 31st December, 1955, there were 5 families in residence, comprising 2 men, 5 women and 16 children.

## VOLUNTARY HOMES

There are no voluntary homes providing accommodation in the Borough for aged and infirm persons.

## DOMICILIARY WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY

In the 1951 Census, the numbers of old people, *i.e.*, males 65 years and over and females 60 years and over, resident in the County Borough of Wigan, were as follows :—

Males ....	3,470
Females ....	6,843
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>10,313</b>

or 12.2% of the population, as compared with 7.2% on the figure obtained from the 1931 Census.

It is of interest to note that amongst these old people there are no fewer than 807 between the ages of 80 and 95 and there is reason to believe that, with the advance of medical science and the greater care now being paid to the prevention of illness, these figures will increase in the years to come.

During the year, visits were paid by Welfare Services staff to over two hundred houses in the Borough and help was given on a variety of problems, such as supplementary pensions, grants for bedding, clothing, spectacles, hearing aids and dentures. Every effort is made to bring a measure of relief to elderly persons by means of the Home Nursing Service, Health Visitor Service, Meals on Wheels and Home Help. It is hoped to augment these services in the coming year by the institution of a laundry service for incontinent aged and a toileting service.

## OTHER SERVICES

### HOLIDAYS AT ROCKWOOD, COLWYN BAY

Holidays at the Council's Aged Persons' Home at Colwyn Bay were provided for a number of aged persons who were in need of care and attention for a limited period, whose relatives or friends were themselves desirous of taking a holiday but who for the remainder of the year were prepared to care for them in their own homes.

### REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION (SECTION 47).

It was not found necessary to take action under this Section during the year.

### PROTECTION OF MOVABLE PROPERTY (SECTION 48).

No applications were received during the year requesting the Authority to provide protection of movable property.

### BURIAL OF THE DEAD (SECTION 50).

During the year there were 12 applications to the Authority for action to be taken under Section 50 regarding the burial of persons dying in the area of the Council. The service was provided in 8 cases.

## WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS

### WELFARE OF THE BLIND

The functions of the Authority are administered on an agency basis by the Wigan, Leigh and District Society for the Blind. Two Home Teachers are employed and seconded to the Society for duty. The following table shows the number of registered blind persons on 31st December, 1955.

0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-39	40-49	50-64	65-69	70 & over	TOTAL
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
— —	2 1	1 —	1 —	8 10	7 4	15 11	8 10	42 50	170

84 males, 86 females, of whom 136 are over the age of 50 years.

During the year 1955, 20 persons were examined and 11 persons were re-examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon. 18 of these were certified as blind, 12 were placed upon the Observation Register, and 1 case was certified "Not Blind." Two cases were transferred out of the area and three cases into the area. There were 23 deaths of registered blind persons.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the 30 blind persons.

	0-15	15-30	30-45	45-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	TOTAL
Males	1	1	—	1	1	1	3	4	—	—	12
Females	—	—	—	2	—	4	6	3	2	1	18

The cause of blindness in the above cases was as follows:—

CONGENITAL AND UNDETERMINED CAUSES:	Males.	Females.
Congenital, hereditary and developmental defects ....	1	—
Myopic error ....	1	5
Primary glaucoma ....	2	4
Primary cataract ....	8	6
GENERAL DISEASE:		
Vascular Diseases ....	—	3

## FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY-SIGHTED PERSONS :

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of of which Section F Para. 1 of Forms B.D.8 recommends :—					CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
					Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) No treatment ....	....	....	....	....	3	—	—	2
(b) Treatment :—								
Medical ....	....	....	....	....	1	2	—	—
Surgical ....	....	....	....	....	6	—	—	2
Optical ....	....	....	....	....	4	4	—	6
(ii) No. of cases at (i) (b) above, which on follow-up action have received treatment ....					5	3	—	2

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year ....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(ii) Number of cases in which					
(a) Vision lost ....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(b) Vision impaired ....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year ....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

## WELFARE OF THE PARTIALLY-SIGHTED

At the end of 1955, there were 37 persons registered in the Observation Register. All these people are substantially and permanently handicapped by defective vision.

The following table shows the age groups of persons on the register :—

0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-39	40-49	50-64	65-69	70 & over	Total
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
1 —	— —	— —	1 —	2 —	1 1	3 4	2 2	9 11	37

## WELFARE OF BLIND CHILDREN

2 blind children and 1 partially sighted child, who have been ascertained under the Education Act (Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service) Regulations, 1945, as being in need of special educational treatment, are being maintained by the Authority as follows :—

	M.	F.
St. Vincent's School for the Blind ....	1	1
Preston School for the Partially Sighted ....	1	—

## WORKSHOP EMPLOYMENT

Workshops for the Blind are provided in Darlington Street East, Wigan. The Workshops are owned and maintained by the Wigan County Borough Council and the Lancashire County Council, and are administered by a voluntary committee, which has adequate representation of members of the two authorities.



The types of employment and extent of provision available for Borough cases is as follows:—

Brush Making	....	....	....	....	....	....	5 males
Basket Making	....	....	....	....	....	....	3 males
Mat Making	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Machine Knitters and Chair Seating	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 females
Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 male

On the 31st December, 1955, there were 11 blind persons from the County Borough of Wigan employed in the Workshops.

#### WELFARE OF THE DEAF

The functions of the Authority are in accordance with the approved Scheme administered on an agency basis by the Wigan and District Deaf and Dumb Society, acting as agents for the County Borough of Wigan. There are 86 deaf adults and 14 deaf children within the County Borough, a total of 100 at 31st December, 1955. This includes 6 persons who are deaf/blind.

With the recent improvements and additions, all the rooms at the Institute are now available for use, making possible a more varied and extended programme of social and recreational welfare for the members.

#### DEAF REGISTER—GROUPING

		Male	Female
Child under 16	Attending Special School ....	10	2
	Attending Other School ....	—	—
	Not at School, but Educable ....	—	1
	Ineducable ....	—	—
Person aged 16 and Upwards	Employed ....	21	19
	Undergoing Vocational training ....	—	—
	Unemployed but available for and capable of training for work ....	1	—
	Incapable of or not available for work ....	10	9
TOTAL ....		42	31

#### WELFARE OF THE HARD OF HEARING

There are 278 known hard-of-hearing persons in the Wigan Borough Area.

During the year, help was provided through the local Society for the Deaf in obtaining and repair of Medresco Hearing Aids. Advice and assistance has also been given in individual cases. There is a local Hard of Hearing Fellowship which has a membership of 32.

## HANDICAPPED PERSONS (GENERAL CLASSES)

The needs of handicapped persons are many and varied and, in addition to advice on the services available and the various agencies from which these services can be obtained, practical help has been given in many ways, *e.g.*, alterations to pathways, provision of ramps, storage of vehicles, housing, etc.

Help with elementary education and youth club activities has been given in conjunction with other voluntary organisations and individual helpers.

## CLASSIFICATION OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

HANDICAP :	Adults		Children		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Amputation ....	33	1	—	—	34
Arthritis and Rheumatism ....	11	3	—	—	14
Congenital Malformations and Deformities ....	11	8	8	1	28
Diseases of the Digestive Heart, Respiratory and Circulatory Systems ....	61	9	1	—	71
Injuries or Diseases of lower or upper limbs or spine, thorax, abdomen, etc. ....	56	5	1	—	62
Organic Nervous Diseases (Epilepsy, Poliomyelitis, etc.)	31	30	5	6	72
Neurosis, Psychosis and other Nervous and Mental Disorders	16	11	—	—	27
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ....	3	1	—	—	4
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)	1	—	—	—	1
Other disorders (not specified above) ....	8	5	—	—	13
	<u>231</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>326</u>

## SUMMARY

GROUPING :	M.	F.	TOTAL
A.—Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions ....	83	10	93
B.—Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but capable of work in sheltered workshops ....	78	15	93
C.—Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions or sheltered workshops, but capable of work at home ....	28	11	39
D.—Incapable of or not available for work	42	37	79
E.—Children under 16 years of age whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments, but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948	15	7	22
	<u>246</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>326</u>

In the above grouping, at the time the visit was made, 100 persons were employed and 204 persons were not engaged in any recognised place of employment.

In addition to the above-mentioned 326 persons, a list of over 200 names has been compiled from School Medical Inspection Records of handicapped school children medically examined at the School Clinic, making a total of over 500 handicapped persons known to Welfare Services.

## HANDICRAFTS

Handicraft Classes are held weekly for handicapped persons at the Social Centres in Crompton Street and Tunstall Lane. Handicapped persons are taking advantage of the facilities offered at the centres and have been encouraged to attend the handicraft classes provided. Various arts and crafts have been introduced by the handicraft instructor employed by the Authority and there appears to be a very happy atmosphere in the classes. During the year, these classes have been extended to cover several homebound handicapped persons.

## LIAISON WITH MINISTRY OF LABOUR'S DISABLEMENT RESETTLEMENT OFFICER

Contact is maintained with the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour, Wigan. Cases are referred to him with a view to being placed in sheltered employment. Visits have been made with the D.R.O. on several occasions.

## OTHER SERVICES

Holidays have been arranged for several blind and other severely disabled persons at the Aged Persons' Home at Colwyn Bay.

## HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN PART III ACCOMMODATION

19 Handicapped Persons are at present in Part III Accommodation in Wigan. (Hostel for Men 8, St. Stephen's House 9, Norley Hall 2).

14 Handicapped Persons are in Part III Accommodation provided by other local authorities as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Maghull Homes for Epileptics	1	2
Langho Epileptic Colony, Blackburn	1	1
White Cross Home, Warrington	1	—
Tate House, Harrogate (Blind)	1	—
William Galloway Home for the Blind	—	1
North London Homes for the Blind	1	—
Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies, Southport	—	1
Oaklands Home for the Blind	1	—
Godfrey Erman Memorial Home for the Blind	—	1
Cripples' Help Society, Tan-y-Bryn, Abergele	—	1
St. Elizabeth's Home for Epileptics, Much Hadam, Herts.	—	1
	—	—
	6	8
	==	==



## EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

### INCIDENCE OF EPILEPSY

30 adult persons (11 men, 19 women) suffering from epilepsy have been notified to the Welfare Services Section from various sources and their names have been placed on the Register of Handicapped Persons.

These names include 2 male and 4 female persons who are in Colony Care provided at the following Institutions :—

	Male.	Female.
Maghull Epileptic Colony ....	1	2
Langho Epileptic Colony, Blackburn .....	1	1
St. Elizabeth's Home for Epileptics ....	—	1

The local office of the Ministry of Labour are aware of 30 persons who were registered as disabled due to epilepsy. Of this number 4 persons (2 men and 2 women) are unemployed.

The local Education Authority provided special educational facilities for 3 children suffering from epilepsy.

The above figures represent only those epileptics whose condition was so severe as to need special arrangements for their education, employment or maintenance.

### WELFARE OF SPASTICS

Although it is difficult to ascertain the total number of spastics resident in the County Borough, by utilising various sources of information, a record is available of some 26 persons. 3 adults (2 men, 1 woman) have been notified to the Welfare Services Section and their names have been entered on the Register of Handicapped Persons.

Information received from the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary shows that 20 spastics (3 adults and 17 children) have received treatment at the out-patients' department during the year.

Clinical and diagnostic services are available at Wigan Royal Infirmary and an Orthopaedic Surgeon and Physiotherapist are employed on the staff of the School Health Service and their services are available for the treatment of spastics as and when required.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

### REST CENTRES

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the planning of the Rest Centre Service and during the year there has been maintained a list of 34 premises which have been earmarked for this purpose.

### BILLETING

Further progress has been made during the year in compiling a register of accommodation in the Borough which could be made available for the billeting of the homeless in the event of war. The Medical Officer of Health has been designated Chief Billeting Officer.

### TRAINING

At the 31st December, 1955, 385 members of the Civil Defence Corps had been allotted to the Welfare Section.



*Section VI*

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**Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Area**



## WATER SUPPLY

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information on the Borough Water Supply :—

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from the Arley, Worthington and Pemberton impounding reservoirs, which have a total capacity of 278,000,000 gallons, and from wells at Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley and Bispham Shaft, Billinge. In addition to these local sources, bulk supplies of water are obtained from Manchester Corporation by means of a pipe line connected to the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

The Corporation also own Reservoirs at Adlington and Pemberton, which are used for compensation purposes only, and a Reservoir at Whitley provides water for industrial use. A further source has been developed at Newfoundland Shaft, Adlington, to assist the Corporation in meeting their compensation water obligations.

The catchment areas feeding the impounding reservoirs are mainly devoted to agricultural use, and both areas contain farms and isolated dwellings. The Worthington catchment has suffered due to sporadic development along the main roads traversing the area. Constant supervision is necessary to minimise the danger of pollution, and local improvements are made from time to time at points of suspected pollution.

Slow sand filters are provided at Worthington, and slow sand and mechanical filters at Edgewood (for Pemberton water). Chlorination plants are installed at Boars Head Pumping Station, Boars Head Water Tower, Edgewood and Bispham. Thus, all water supplies are chlorinated before distribution, with the exception of the trade supply from Whitley Reservoir.

Tap samples are taken every month from four dwellings selected at random in the Borough, and are dispatched for chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples of raw and filtered waters are also obtained and tested. A few adverse tap samples were reported during the year, but local mains flushing and chlorination resulted in satisfactory analyses in later samples.

In spite of the very good weather experienced from July to September, it was not necessary to bring in water restrictions. This was chiefly due to the state of the reservoirs prior to this fine spell commencing.

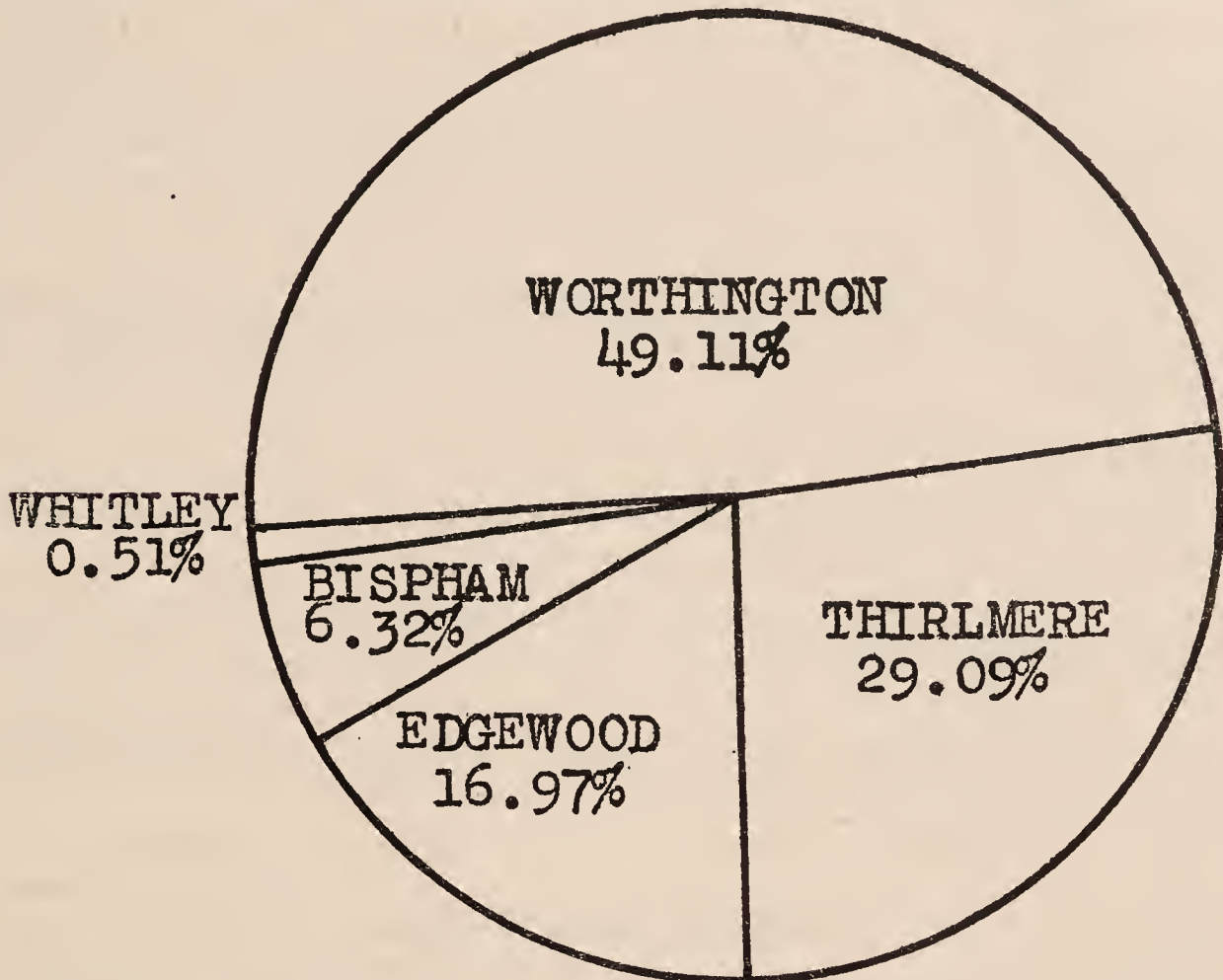
The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes reached 1,980,000 gallons, representing approximately 23.9 gallons per head per day for a population of 83,000.

Bulk supplies of water are made to the Orrell U.D.C., and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C., under agreements between the Corporation and the respective Councils. Some dwellings situated on the Borough boundaries are supplied with water by the Orrell U.D.C. and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C.

A scheme for the augmentation of the water supplies has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This scheme allows for additional water to be taken from the Thirlmere Aqueduct. The size of the proposed pipeline permits of not only increased domestic supplies but also for large industrial supplies, particularly to the new factory being built for Messrs. H. J. Heinz and Co. Ltd. at Kitt Green. Work on this new scheme is expected to commence in the summer of 1956 and to be substantially completed by the end of 1957.

The following diagram showing the percentages of water supplied from the various sources is extracted from the report on the Waterworks by the Borough and Water Engineer.

## WATER SUPPLIED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, 1955-1956.



(Edgewood and Bispham quantities include water pumped from Nicholson's Pit).

## PUBLIC BATHS

The Baths Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Cockrell, has kindly supplied the following statistics and report:—

PARTICULARS OF THE BOROUGH BATHING ESTABLISHMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1956.

Number of Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
BATHERS :							
Male Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	90,219
Male Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	16,513
Female Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	45,107
Female Private Baths	....	....	....	....	....	....	8,256
Mixed Bathing : Adults and Juniors			....	....	....	....	11,772
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.				....	....	....	23,734
							<hr/>
							195,601



Number of Bathers during the past five years :—

Year ended 31st March

1952	....	....	....	....	....	....	161,951
1953	....	....	....	....	....	....	164,026
1954	....	....	....	....	....	....	161,013
1955	....	....	....	....	....	....	135,859
1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	195,601

The above figures show a great increase as compared with the previous year. This is due to the exceptionally fine weather experienced during the summer season.

The introduction of Break Point Chlorination has enhanced the appearance of the water in the Plunge Baths and also ensured perfect sterility which is substantiated by the Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Reports.

The summer season of 1955 proved to be a record in the history of attendances at the Baths and on numerous occasions it was found necessary to stop booking to relieve the congestion.

Here is positive proof that the facilities at the Baths are totally inadequate and the Baths cannot in their present state meet the ever-increasing demands.

It is hoped that the Local Authority will when time is opportune give priority to the project of additional bathing facilities.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Douglas and the streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The River is badly polluted before entering the Borough and a certain amount of pollution occurs within. The extremely dry weather experienced during the summer months has caused further deterioration in the general condition of the river bed and banks so far as the accumulation of filth is concerned.

The River Douglas is under the control of the Lancashire Rivers Board who are constantly engaged in work of dredging and straightening of the River.

The Lancashire Rivers Board also clean the River, remove sludge, etc., from the bed, as required.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained.

The sewage is conducted from the town by two main outfall sewers, 27 inches and 36 inches diameter, to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hoscar, which are seven miles distant. Before leaving the town the sewage passes through two detritus tanks and also through coarse and fine screens, and at this point the storm water is diverted from the outfall sewers and is conveyed to the storm water treatment works at Pemberton.



Alumino-ferric is added to the sewage at Hoscar, which then passes through Preliminary and Secondary Settling Tanks and a battery of circular percolating filters. The effluent from the filters before it is discharged to the River Douglas is passed through humus tanks.

For some considerable time it has been evident that the present sewage treatment plant is inadequate to deal with the gradually increasing outflow. This inadequacy has been accentuated by the need to handle the trade effluent from a new food canning plant soon to be established in the area and also the liquor from the N.W. Gas Board's Wigan Gas Works which at present flows untreated into the River Douglas. An extensive modernisation of the sewage plant, recently approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was commenced in March, 1956.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. G. Keighley, for the following information :—

During the year 1955, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	....	....	248,040,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	....	....	977,188,000	„
Hoscar Drainage Area	....	....	475,245,000	„
				<hr/>
TOTAL SEWAGE TREATED	....	....	1,700,473,000	„
Total solids, detritus tanks and screen chambers, Pemberton			3,885	tons
Total dried sludge recovered	....	....	2,854	„
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	....		1.68	„
Rainfall for year	....	....	26.31	inches
				(Hoscar).

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Mr. W. Smith, the Director of Public Cleansing, has supplied the following particulars :—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.—The collection of dry house refuse and trade refuse is carried out by both horse and mechanical transport, working as separate units, and by the Pagefield container system, and the percentage of refuse collected by each system is as follows :—

Horse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18	per cent.
Pagefield container	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23	„
Mechanical vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	59	„

70 per cent. of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping.

NIGHTSOIL AND PAIL REFUSE.—The refuse (520 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.

TRADE REFUSE.—Fixed charges were introduced on November 1st, 1950 for the removal of this refuse. The shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

1,000 tons of trade refuse was delivered at the tipping site by private traders and contractors.

A scale of charges, in accordance with vehicle capacity, is operated.

GULLY CLEANSING.—During the year, 19,800 gullies were emptied.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The following conveniences and urinals are maintained and cleansed by the department:—

2 public conveniences for ladies and gents, with attendants.

4 public conveniences for ladies and gents, without attendants.

19 public urinals.

All urinals are cleansed and inspected twice per day, including Sundays.

GENERAL.—The quantity of refuse dealt with by the Refuse Disposal Plant during the year 1955 was 7,825 tons, and the quantity tipped was 18,380 tons. In April, 1950, the Corporation introduced a Dust Bin Renewal Scheme, as a direct rate charge.

During the year 2,103 bins were renewed and 467 sold to private properties not included in the scheme.

123,520,000 square yards of street have been swept during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 29,608, waste water closets 76, pail closets 43, and privy middens 31.

The majority of pail closets and privy middens are attached to houses unfit for human habitation or premises where the drainage cannot be connected to the sewer.

On April 1st, 1926 the Local Authority inaugurated a scheme for the conversion of waste water closets to closets on the water carriage system with proper flushing apparatus and if this work was carried out to the satisfaction of the Local Authority a grant of £5 was made towards the cost of each conversion. Since that date, 958 closets have been converted.

This scheme is still in operation and in all cases where notices have been served for foul or defective waste water closets the owner or agent has been advised to convert them to closets on the water carriage system. During 1951 the Local Authority grant was increased to £10.



## CREMATION

The Corporation Crematorium at Ince Cemetery was officially opened on the 23rd June, 1955, and the first cremation took place on the 28th June.

The work of the Medical Referee was carried out by members of the Health Department staff, the Medical Officer of Health acting as Medical Referee and two assistant Medical Officers of Health acting as Deputy Medical Referees. The volume of work during the six months to the end of the year was not as great as was anticipated but shows every sign of increasing during 1956.

The success of the venture so far as the Health Department is concerned depends on accurate documentation and a surprising number of the statutory medical forms have been returned for proper completion or, in the case of Form C, for re-certification by a practitioner properly registered in accordance with the Regulations. Cases in which difficulties arise take up the time of the Referees out of all proportion to their actual numbers. This is especially the case when the arrangements for cremation are made by persons living at some distance from Wigan.

## SANITARY INSPECTION

Mr. Vincent Jones, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports :—

The year under review has seen the introduction of new legislation, namely, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The operating of the new Acts mentioned in my last annual report have considerably increased the activities of the staff. It can be said that much useful work has been done and a fair degree of progress made in the field of housing, meat inspection, supervision of milk supplies, atmospheric pollution and food hygiene.

In common with many Authorities, we have experienced acute staff shortage and prospects for the future are not very bright. The scheme for encouraging the recruitment of Sanitary Inspectors by appointing Student Sanitary Inspectors, has resulted in the addition of one member to the staff.

The solution to this problem is to make the profession more attractive to the right type of men with a flair for this kind of work in the public health field.

Nevertheless, despite a depleted staff, I am pleased to report that every endeavour has been made to meet the situation. The duties of taking samples of water, the supervision and taking of samples of pasteurised milk from the five milk establishments in the town as well as the taking of samples under the Food and Drugs Act and other Acts, have been maintained. Bacteriological and analytical reports have been acted on and further samples have been taken when required.

Housing inspection has received considerable attention, action being taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, for main repairs and for more drastic action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. The progress in rehousing tenants from insanitary or dangerous dwellings is insufficient to meet the increasing numbers of such properties requiring action.

The general public is taking an increasing interest in the need for smoke abatement. Many complaints have been investigated and considerable improvements effected in several of the cases.



## SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances and complaints	2703
Re-visits to Nuisances	6959
Other visits made	446
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	314
Nuisances discovered	4428
Nuisances abated	4250
Notices issued (preliminary)	1591
Notices issued (formal)	863
Letters issued <i>re</i> Nuisances	757
Visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	203
Re-visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	73
Visits <i>re</i> Certificates of Disrepair	237
„ Housing Survey	247
„ infectious disease	148
Visits to slaughterhouses	2996
Visits <i>re</i> offensive trades	6
Visits to markets	20
„ butchers shops	110
„ food preparers	51
„ caterers	55
„ other food shops	298
„ dairies	143
„ milkshops	70
„ ice-cream manufacturers	31
„ ice-cream shops	22
„ bakehouses	26
„ common lodging houses	37
„ houses let-in lodgings	2
„ factories—power	105
„ factories—non-power	27
„ workshops	8
„ offices	4
„ places of entertainment	35
„ caravans	10
„ caravans on fairground	15
„ canal boats	4
„ <i>re</i> means of escape in case of fire	9
„ rats and mice—dwellings	2266
„ „ „ other premises	9588
„ smoke abatement	14
No. of shops observations	58
Visits to Shops under Shops Act	52
Visits <i>re</i> Poisons Acts	5
Visits to premises <i>re</i> applications for tenancy of Council houses	123
„ <i>re</i> Merchandise Marks Act	28

### SAMPLES OBTAINED :

[illegible]

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric pollution still continues on a large scale and as is now generally known, is due to the waste of a vital mineral, namely, coal, through incomplete combustion.

The big industrial units are beginning to realise the importance of dealing with this waste of coal and are introducing mechanical stokers in their efforts to obtain the maximum heat from this costly commodity. Domestic fireplaces are big contributors to the smoke umbrella which blots out the light and deprives the community of the beneficial effects of sunlight.

Smaller industries which are sited up and down in the residential parts of the town, also add their contribution. Complaints made by the general public to this Department by phone and in person, are increasing, indicating that the public are becoming more smoke conscious.

Frequent representations to the firms concerned produces the desired effect for short periods.

The remedy is in the creation of smoke control zones which are being popularised in adjacent townships and cities. We look forward to the new Clean Air Bill for support in dealing with this problem of smoke nuisance.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	....	....	....	3
„ lodgers allowed nightly	....	....	....	177
„ visits	....	....	....	37

## HOUSES LET-IN LODGINGS

No. of houses on register	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

The offensive trade premises in the Borough comprise: 1 fell-monger, 1 fat boiler, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler and 1 gut scraper.

Visits have been paid to these premises and no cause for complaint has been found.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER MATERIALS REGULATIONS, 1951.

Four samples were taken during the year and the results of the examinations were satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS ACT, 1877 AND 1884, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No. of boats registered at Wigan and still in use or available	....	10
„ inspections	....	4
„ letters sent out <i>re</i> defects	....	—

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The inspection of factories is carried out by the Factory Inspector and the Sanitary Inspectors, there being an obligation on both inspectors to report defects. It is very pleasing to report that there is happy co-operation between the two departments. Complaints concerning matters of hygiene reported by the Factory Inspector have always received prompt attention by the factory owners at the request of the Health Department. The Fire Service are deserving of our thanks for the advice tendered by them in deciding on the Means of Escape in case of fire in factories and other buildings in the town.

Certificates granted for adequate means of escape in case of fire	3
Letters sent out	6
No. of factories on register	430
„ visits to factories	132
„ visits to bakehouses	26

The following defects were dealt with:—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	29
Require limewashing or cleansing	5
Other offences	2
No. of defects remedied	38
„ notices received from H.M. Inspector	38

### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The provisions of this Act are carried out by the Inspectors and deal with Young Persons and Assistants, times of employment, meal times and general sanitary conditions, etc.

Complaints are received from time to time of infringements by the small shops not taking the weekly half-holiday or selling prohibited articles of food on Sundays. In every case it has been found sufficient to warn the offenders by letter.

‘Purveyors of Meat’ Premises	90
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	41
Fried Fish Shops	77
Grocery Stores	381
Greengrocery	55
Other shops	1220
No. of visits and observations	878

Owing to the shortage of inspectorial staff during the year the important work of inspection of shops did not receive the attention it is desired.

### PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of “Listed Sellers” on register	104
-------------------------------------	-----



## PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

These premises are invariably kept in a satisfactory condition. In addition to routine visits all the places of entertainment, numbering 33, are inspected and reported on annually prior to the granting of the licence.

## RODENT CONTROL

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This work is carried out by three fully-trained Rodent Control Operators, who are fully occupied investigating complaints and baiting at schools, canteens and dwelling-houses. All the sewers in the Borough are surveyed by them and the manholes treated twice a year. Free treatment is available for all dwelling-houses and all non-revenue producing premises.

It cannot be too widely expressed that the presence of vermin in food premises constitutes a danger to public health by infecting food.



## *Section VII*



# **Housing**



## HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Housing accommodation as at 31st December, 1955 :—

No. of dwelling-houses	....	....	....	....	....	23,352
„ business premises with living accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	1,006
„ licensed premises with living accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	147
						24,505

No. of dwelling houses erected in 1955 :—

By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	261
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	39

### INSANITARY HOUSES

The housing survey and report required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were completed and approved by the Council in August. Some 2,145 houses by reason of old age, limited areas and faulty construction, were considered to be unfit and to merit action under the Housing Acts—by declaration of Clearance Areas, individual demolition orders and closing orders.

A high percentage of these houses are in confined industrial areas. Quite a number of them have no through ventilation in bedrooms or artificial lighting or, indeed, average natural lighting. The original accommodation was one room up and one room down, but family increases calling for more privacy, the rooms were later sub-divided by boxwood, presumably by the tenant. Their classification, due to such partitioning, is two living rooms and two bedrooms. They stand today as reminders of a past industrial era.

From the short description of this class of property, it can be seen that schemes for improvements mentioned in the Housing Act cannot be applied.

The need for re-housing is urgent. It should be the inalienable right of the human to be decently housed and afforded every opportunity of bringing up a family under the most hygienic conditions.

The question of economics should be subjugated for this purpose.

The reward of a community decently housed, living contentedly in happy surroundings, should be adequate compensation.

### PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936, SECTION 11.

70 houses were submitted during the year by the Medical Officer of Health to the appropriate Committee. 7 Closing Orders and 63 Demolition Orders were made.

### REPAIR TO HOUSES

The maintenance of dwelling houses in a state of repair fit for human habitation, engages the attention of the Sanitary Inspector. The service of notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, chiefly deals with the repair of defective house roofs, renewals of eavesgutters, repair to window frames, floors and plaster on walls. Property owners have responded well to our notices, which invariably call for bare essentials.

Our main duty in this work is to keep as many houses as possible reasonably fit during this transient period. Too much pressure on the landlord to execute repairs has evoked requests to issue Closing Orders for economic reasons. We endeavour to strike a happy medium fair to both sides.

When cases do arise where the landlord is disinclined to carry out repairs, the authority is obliged to take legal proceedings. Fortunately, these cases are exceptional. Recourse to law does not hasten execution of repairs but ensures that the repairs will in fact be carried out.

One of the greatest difficulties we experience is that of prevailing on the landlord to keep conditions weatherproof and sanitary services working in scheduled houses. Immediately a house receives the attention of the Local Authority the landlord sits back. It is only natural that he will be indisposed to spend money on property listed for demolition.

In cases of this kind I have found that appeals to their better nature have brought the desired results.

#### INFORMATION *re* LOCAL LAND CHARGES

Information relating to dwelling houses, the existence of notices served on the owner and their position regarding slum clearance, was supplied for official search records.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR

In 5 cases it was necessary to issue summonses against persons for non-compliance with abatement notices and in each case nuisance orders were made by the Court for the work to be carried out within one month.

### THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

169 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. 49 of these were from tenants who had not been served with a notice of increase of rent by the landlord and were dealt with under the 1920 Act, and 120 were from tenants who had received the notices of increase of rent as required by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

8 applications were withdrawn.

33 applications for revocation of Certificates were received. 2 applications were refused and 31 Certificates revoked.

The object of this legislation was to assist the landlords financially to enable them to execute repairs to their property which would bring them to a desired standard. One year's experience of the operation of this part of the Act has not proved to have had the desired effect, the proposed increases in rent being insufficient to meet the cost of repairs due to rising costs in labour and materials.





*Section VIII*

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**Inspection and  
Supervision of Food**

## EXAMINATION OF WATER

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

During the year 48 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for examination.

The results of these examinations, expressed in averages, are given below :—

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Worthington & Thirlmere No. 1	Worthington & Thirlmere No. 2
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Temporary Hardness .....	13.5	15.1	6.1	4.4
Permanent Hardness .....	8.8	4.0	8.8	5.6
Total Hardness .....	22.3	19.1	14.9	10.0
Alkalinity .....	—	3.8	0.58	0.30
Combined Chlorine .....	3.1	2.8	2.02	0.33
Ammoniacal Nitrogen .....	0.00009	0.00009	0.0002	0.0
Albuminoid Nitrogen .....	0.0014	0.0016	0.0028	0.0021
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	—	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	0.16	0.11	0.13	0.19
Oxygen ansorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. ....	0.047	0.060	0.125	0.97
PH Value .....	7.05	7.03	7.01	7.04

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

During the year 60 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination. The results of 7 of these examinations were unsatisfactory and in consequence 17 further samples were taken, 9 of which were satisfactory.

### MILK SUPPLY

There are 4 licensed processing milk plants in the town. 2 have H.T.S.T. installation and 2 are low temperature Holder process installations.

Nearly all milk sold in this town is processed.

Milk samples are taken twice a month from these plants for bacteriological examination. All milk sold in the town is subject at varying times, to chemical and bacteriological examination. A check is also kept on the efficient working of the bottle-washing plants in these establishments.

The result of our attention in these matters is evidenced by the bacteriological reports which, in every case, were satisfactory.

Apart from this action in connection with processing plants, samples of milk are taken from school supplies and milk retailers in the town.

Every effort is made, and with no small measure of success, in ensuring milk to be free from disease.

There is a small quantity of raw milk being retailed as T.T. milk. This designation signifies that the milk is produced from a tuberculin tested herd, which is veterinary inspected for presence of T.B. or other diseases, four times in the year.

Samples of milk from this source are submitted for examination for the presence of tubercule bacilli.

No. of visits to dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	143
„ milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	70
No. of dealers licensed for the sale of sterilised milk	....	....						393
„ licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	....	....						162
„ licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	....							51
No. of dealer (pasteuriser's) licences	....	....	....	....	....			4
„ persons registered as distributors of milk	....	....	....	....	....			409
„ premises registered as dairies	....	....	....	....	....			12

102 samples of milk were obtained for analysis and submitted to the Public Analyst. 16 of these were the subject of adverse reports.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

144 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination :—

PASTEURISED :	120	
TUBERCULIN TESTED :	12	All samples passed the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests.
(pasteurised)		
STERILISED :	12	In all cases the Turbidity Test was negative.

30 samples of raw milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for the T.B. inoculation test. In all cases there was no evidence of tuberculous infection.

#### ICE CREAM

The premises of manufacturers and retailers of ice cream are required to be registered under provisions contained in a local Act.

There were 6 registered premises for the manufacture of ice cream at the end of the year.

Regular and frequent inspections of these establishments were made throughout the year.

Ice cream as sold today, with few exceptions, is pre-wrapped or held in containers. Where the practice continues of the sale of loose ice cream the vans are fitted with water supply and equipment for adequate cleansing of the utensils and washing of hands.



The bacteriological reports are expressed in grades and their quality is determined as satisfactory when classed in Grades 1 and 2, and unsatisfactory when placed in Grades 3 and 4.

Grade 1.—35.

Grade 2.—4.

Grade 3.—10.

Grade 4.—7.

13 samples of ice cream were also taken under the Food and Drugs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst. These were reported as satisfactory.

#### RETAILERS

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1955 was 255.

### FOOD PREMISES

All food businesses in town dealing in purveying, providing, preparing and catering, have received visits from the Inspectors. All matters pertaining to hygiene, recommendations for improvements in present practices or new introductions of better services have been accomplished by personal contact and amicable discussions.

Evidence that this mode of approach is having good results can be seen by the increasing protection of foodstuffs in shops, by glass screening and the installing of glass showcases cum counters, of refrigerators for the display and keeping of cooked meat products.

The new Food and Drugs Act which comes into force on the 1st January, 1956, will make a big contribution to the maintenance and furtherance of hygiene in food businesses.

### FRIED FISH SHOPS

77 shops in the Borough carry on the business of fish-frying and these have been visited by the Inspectors.

Unless this type of business is carried on under hygienic conditions, nuisances can arise but we have to record that special visits arising from complaints are practically unknown.

### REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES

The number of registered premises in the Borough is 90 and routine visits to these have been made by the Inspectors.

Informal action only was necessary in a minority of cases.

The carrying of meat from vans to various butchers' premises without head coverings appears to be on the decline due in no small measure to the activities of the staff.



## CARCASSES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	TOTAL
Carcases examined ....	978	7253	364	18828	11327	38750
Carcases totally condemned....	2	17	2	14	3	38
Percentage totally condemned....	0.20	0.23	0.55	0.07	0.03	0.10

## CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ... ..	978	7253	364	11327	18828	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	4	1	3	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	127	1988	1	1844	1885	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	13.1	27.5	0.6	16.3	10.0	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	13	1	—	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	117	2838	—	—	564	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	12.1	39.3	0.3	—	3.0	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	5	34	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	5	34	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—



The following meat and offal from the slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1955.

	Whole carcase and all Offal Con- demned	Part of Carcase   Con- demned	OFFAL CONDEMNED									
			Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Stomachs	Spleens	Skirts	Kidneys	Udders	Mesen- teries
Affected with Tuberculosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	1	2	38	97	28	2	3	6	13	—	—	19
Cows ... ..	13	86	883	2732	754	19	150	246	142	60	68	503
Calves ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	7	16	336	199	331	72	7	1	1	3	—	2
Sheep ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with Cysticercosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cows ... ..	—	—	26	—	—	7	—	—	1	—	—	—
Calves ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	1	—	1	7	119	3	1	—	1	7	—	—
Cows ... ..	4	—	3	37	1773	14	17	39	12	134	561	12
Calves ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	7	—	2	1554	495	375	4	—	—	64	27	14
Sheep ... ..	3	—	—	123	1839	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	38	104	1292	4750	5339	497	182	292	171	268	656	550

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED, 1955.

Imported Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	134 lbs.
Other Meat and Offal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1052 lbs.
Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	124 lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1098
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	952 lbs.
Canned Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	77
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2840 lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	555
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4098 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	668
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	605
Canned Jam	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13
Canned Soup	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	67
Packages of Other Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	340
Other canned or bottled foods	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	81
Fowl	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	207 lbs.
Lard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14 lbs.
Cheeee	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14 lbs.
Margarine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16 lbs.
Eggs (frozen)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	144 lbs.
Cakes	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	92
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	62 lbs.
Mussels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 cwts.
Cream	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1½ galls.

All food condemned, other than meat, is destroyed at the Frog Lane Depot of the Corporation Cleansing Department.

## MARKETS

The fish and fruit markets have been visited regularly, both as a routine inspection and at the request of the proprietors of stalls, to examine food considered unfit for human consumption.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

During the year 256 samples of milk and various other foods obtained under the above Acts were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

### SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1955

Articles	Total Number Analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	
		Number	Percentage
Baking Powder	1	...	...
Butter ... ..	6	...	...
Cake ... ..	1	...	...
Cake Mix ... ..	2	...	...
Cheese ... ..	2	...	...
Chicken ... ..	1	...	...
Coconut ... ..	1	...	...
Coffee ... ..	5	...	...
Condensed Milk	3	...	...
Cooking Fat ...	2	...	...
Custard Powder	3	...	...
Fish Paste ...	7	...	...
Flavoured Milk	1	...	...
Gin ... ..	1	...	...
Gravy Browning	1	...	...
Ice Cream ... ..	13	...	...
Ice Lolly ... ..	1	...	...
Jam ... ..	8	...	...
Jelly ... ..	5	...	...
Lard ... ..	6	...	...
Margarine ... ..	10	...	...
Meat Paste ...	5	...	...
Meat Pies ... ..	15	4	26.7
Milk ... ..	102	16	15.7
Minerals ... ..	6	...	...
Mustard ... ..	1	...	...
Peas ... ..	3	...	...
Pepper ... ..	4	...	...
Pickles ... ..	2	...	...
Rum ... ..	1	...	...
Salad Cream ...	2	...	...
Sardines ... ..	2	...	...
Sauce ... ..	2	...	...
Sausage ... ..	18	5	27.8
Shrimps ... ..	2	...	...
Sugar ... ..	1	...	...
Tea ... ..	7	...	...
Vinegar ... ..	2	...	...
Whiskey ... ..	1	...	...
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9.8</b>

\* Action taken in regard to 25 unsatisfactory samples is given on page 105.

## SAMPLES NOT UP TO SATISFACTORY STANDARDS

Article	No. of Sample		Report	Remarks
	Informal	Formal		
Pork		12	Containing preservative.	Fined £6 and costs.
Sausage ...			No notice displayed.	
Milk .....	29		Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....	38		Deficient in fat 6.6%	Formal samples taken—genuine
Milk .....	42		Deficient in fat 3.3%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk .....	43		Deficient in fat 3.3%	<i>do.</i>
Milk .....	44		Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....		51	Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1% ; fat 10%	<i>do.</i>
Pork Pie...	55		Infested with mould	Fined £10 and costs.
Milk .....		92	Deficient in fat 10%	Fined £5 and costs.
Pork				
Sausage ...		93	Deficient in meat 10.7%	Fined £5 and costs.
Milk .....		95	Deficient in fat 23%	Fined £5 and costs.
Meat Pie...	103			
<i>do.</i>	104		Contaminated with mould	Analyst advised no action.
<i>do.</i>	105			
Pork				
Sausage ...		109	Deficient in meat 16.3%	Fined £5 and costs.
Pork				
Sausage ...		110	Containing preservative No notice displayed.	Fined £1 and costs.
Milk .....	116		Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....	119		Deficient in solids-not-fat 2.3%	<i>do.</i>
Milk .....	121		Deficient in solids-not-fat 2.3%	<i>do.</i>
Milk .....	123		Deficient in fat 13.3%	Formal samples 142 and 143 taken.
Milk .....	126		Deficient in fat 11.6%	Formal samples taken— genuine.
Milk .....		140	Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1%	Genuine but abnormal.
Milk .....		142	Deficient in solids-not-fat 1.1%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk .....		143	Deficient in fat 10%	<i>do.</i>
Pork				
Sausage ...		220	Deficient in meat 6.1%	<i>do.</i>



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst, Mr. J. Graham Sherratt, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., for the following remarks on the work carried out on behalf of the Corporation during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1955.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT	1955	1954	1953
Total number of samples of Foods and			
Drugs analysed	256	252	254
Number of samples not up to satisfactory			
standards	25	16	24
Percentage unsatisfactory	9.8	6.3	13.4

The total of 256 samples analysed in 1955 included 102 samples of milk of which 16 were below standard. Eight of these contained less than 3.0% of fat, which is the presumptive minimum (established by the Sale of Milk Regulations) for genuine milk. The extents of the deficiencies in fat ranged from 3.3 per cent. to 23 per cent. Seven samples of milk contained less than the presumptive minimum of 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat; the deficiencies in solids-not-fat varied between 1.1 and 2.3 per cent., and the application of the freezing point test indicated that all the samples were "genuine but abnormal." The remaining sample of non-standard milk was 10 per cent. deficient in fat and 1.1 per cent. deficient in solids-not-fat; in this sample also the freezing point did not indicate extraneous water. The average composition of all the samples of milk analysed during 1955 was:

	Per cent.
Fat	3.48
Solids-not-fat	8.81
Water	88.71

If the non-standard samples are excluded, the average for the 86 "genuine" samples was:

	Per cent.
Fat	3.55
Solids-not-fat	8.86
Water	87.59

This average does not differ significantly from the average found in 1954.

## OTHER SAMPLES OF FOODS AND DRUGS

Nine of the 154 samples of miscellaneous food and drugs were not regarded as satisfactory. They included one pork pie and three meat pies which were mouldy and unfit for human consumption, and two samples of sausages which contained undeclared preservative, contrary to the Preservative Regulations, and three samples of pork sausage which were regarded as deficient in meat content. There is no statutory regulation at present in force governing the meat content of sausages, but it is clear that there must be some limit below which a purchaser is prejudiced, particularly as it is impossible to decide by an ordinary visual examination how much meat a sausage contains. The average meat content of the samples of pork sausage, taken in Wigan during 1955 was 66.8 per cent. (highest 76.5% lowest 54.4%). The average meat content of all the samples submitted to me during the same period by the various authorities for whom I act as public analyst exceeded 67 per cent., and very few contained less than 65 per cent. of meat. It seems reasonable, therefore, to take 65 per cent. of meat in pork sausage as a reasonable working minimum, and to regard lower quantities of meat as unsatisfactory. On this basis the three unsatisfactory samples were deficient in meat to the extent of 10.7, 16.3 and 6.1 per cent., respectively. The average meat content of the 4 samples of beef sausages received for analysis was 61.2 per cent. (highest 67%, lowest 55.4%). A somewhat lower meat content is usually considered to be reasonable for beef sausages and these were regarded as satisfactory.

## ICE CREAM

Thirteen samples of ice cream were analysed during the year. The proportion of fat in the samples varied between 5.0 and 11.9 per cent., with an average of 9.6 per cent.; the range of sugar in the samples was between 10.0 and 17.2 per cent. (average 13.4 per cent.) and milk solids between 9.0 and 14.4 per cent. (average 10.8 per cent.). The minimum limits established by the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order are: fat 5.0 per cent.; sugar 10.0 per cent. and milk solids 7.5 per cent. Although, therefore, the composition of a few of the samples came very close to the minimum limit in respect of fat or sugar, the average was well above the minimum legal requirements.

The remaining samples consisted of a representative variety of miscellaneous foods and drugs. Those samples for which official regulations for composition have been prescribed complied with the appropriate tests, and those for which no legal standards exist were of satisfactory commercial quality. These samples do not call for individual comment.

## FERTILISERS AND FEEDINGS STUFF ACT

Eighteen samples, comprising 10 samples of compound fertiliser and 8 samples of manufactured feeding stuffs were analysed during the year 1955. The composition of 4 samples of fertiliser and 4 samples of feeding stuff was not in accordance with the statutory declaration. Of the non-complying fertilisers, two contained slight excess of potash or phosphate, which were in favour of the purchaser. One contained slightly more phosphate and slightly less potash, and one contained 1.6 per cent. less potash than was declared.

In two of the non-complying feeding stuffs, small deficiencies in fibre were in the purchaser's favour and of the remaining two samples, one contained 0.5 per cent. less oil than declared, and one contained 2.3 per cent. more protein, which is in favour of the purchaser, and 1.8 per cent. more fibre, which is not. The composition of all the other samples was satisfactory.

## WATERS

During the year 59 samples of water were examined. They included 52 samples of tap water taken for routine analyses, 5 samples for full organic and mineral analyses and a determination of fluorine, and 2 samples of baths water. The organic condition of the routine samples was in general satisfactory and all were safe for domestic use. A few of the samples had a slight odour of petrol when they were received, but the circumstances suggested that this was due to accidental contamination, possibly on the outside of the bottle, during sampling, and there was no reason to suppose that the quality of the water, as delivered to the consumer, was in any way unsatisfactory.

In connection with a Ministerial investigation into the fluorine content of the domestic water supply in various parts of the country, 5 samples were received for a specially full analysis, including mineral components and fluorine. The highest quantity of fluorine in any of the samples was 0.2 part per million, and in 4 of the 5 samples, the fluorine did not exceed 0.1 part per million.

The two samples of baths water, taken respectively from the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Plunge Baths were of satisfactory organic quality, but in both the free chlorine was rather higher (1.5 parts per million) than is usually regarded as desirable. The chlorine demand of baths water fluctuates with the bathing load and a slightly higher chlorine figure usually indicates that the bath has not recently been heavily loaded.

(Signed) J. GRAHAM SHERRATT,

*Public Analyst.*



## APPENDIX

## HOME NURSING SERVICE

## CLASSIFICATION OF CASES

## ALL AGES

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6
Tuberculosis, other forms	7
Erysipelas	3
Whooping Cough	3
Measles	4
Diseases due to helminths	3
Malignant neoplasms	62
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	18
Diabetes mellitus	61
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	118
Conjunctivitis	4
Blepharitis	—
Cataract	2
Glaucoma	—
Acute otitis media	37
Mastoiditis	5
Rheumatic Fever	3
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	236
Other diseases of circulatory system	117
Acute pharyngitis	2
Tonsillitis	30
Laryngectomy	1
Tracheotomy	1
Influenza	50
Pneumonia	59
Bronchitis	140
Quinsy	8
Empyema	4
All other respiratory diseases	50
Appendicitis	18
Hernia of Abdominal Cavity	8
Laparotomy	7
Enteritis	2
Gastrectomy	7
Cholecystectomy	9
Diseases of gall bladder and biliary ducts	14
Other diseases of digestive system	16
Diseases of genital organs	15
Prostatectomy	6
Supra-pubic drainage	4
Cystotomy	2
Diseases of uterus	59
Hysterectomy	3





## CLASSIFICATION OF CASES

## PATIENTS AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER

	1955			1954		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	2	1	3	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other forms .....	—	—	—	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasms .....	17	12	29	10	29	39
Benign and unspecified neoplasms .....	1	3	4	2	3	5
Diabetes Mellitus .....	6	17	23	4	15	19
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system .....	18	33	51	18	52	70
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease .....	30	32	62	20	50	70
Other diseases of circulatory system .....	12	32	44	9	22	31
Diseases of digestive system .....	2	—	2	6	2	8
Influenza .....	3	5	8	4	3	7
Gastric Influenza .....	—	—	—	2	—	2
Pneumonia .....	6	8	14	8	15	23
Bronchitis .....	19	30	49	19	43	62
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	—	—	—	10	10	20
Rheumatism .....	—	1	1	4	6	10
Arthritis .....	3	13	16	2	16	18
Varicose ulcers .....	8	8	16	4	6	10
Phlebitis .....	—	2	2	2	4	6
General rashes on body .....	2	4	6	6	8	14
Dermatitis .....	—	1	1	3	2	5
Eczema .....	2	1	3	2	4	6
Erysipelas .....	—	1	1	3	1	4
Scabies .....	1	2	3	4	1	5
Cellulitis .....	1	1	2	3	—	2
Abscesses, Boils, Carbuncles .....	11	7	18	6	2	8
Bedsores .....	—	1	1	5	2	7
Senility, Constipation, Debility, Neurasthenia .....	28	66	94	29	42	71
Injuries due to falls .....	1	2	3	3	10	13
Fractures .....	1	7	8	2	6	8
Burns .....	—	—	—	3	1	4
Scalds .....	1	3	4	1	2	3
Supra-pubic drainage .....	3	—	3	3	—	3
Prostatectomy .....	4	—	4	7	—	7
Cystotomy .....	—	—	—	8	—	8
Gastrectomy .....	—	—	—	2	1	3
Hysterectomy .....	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cholecystectomy .....	2	1	3	—	4	4
Diseases of the uterus .....	—	36	36	—	45	45
Preparation for x-ray .....	8	4	12	6	7	13
Excision of eye .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cataract .....	—	1	1	—	—	—
Conjunctivitis .....	1	1	2	—	—	—

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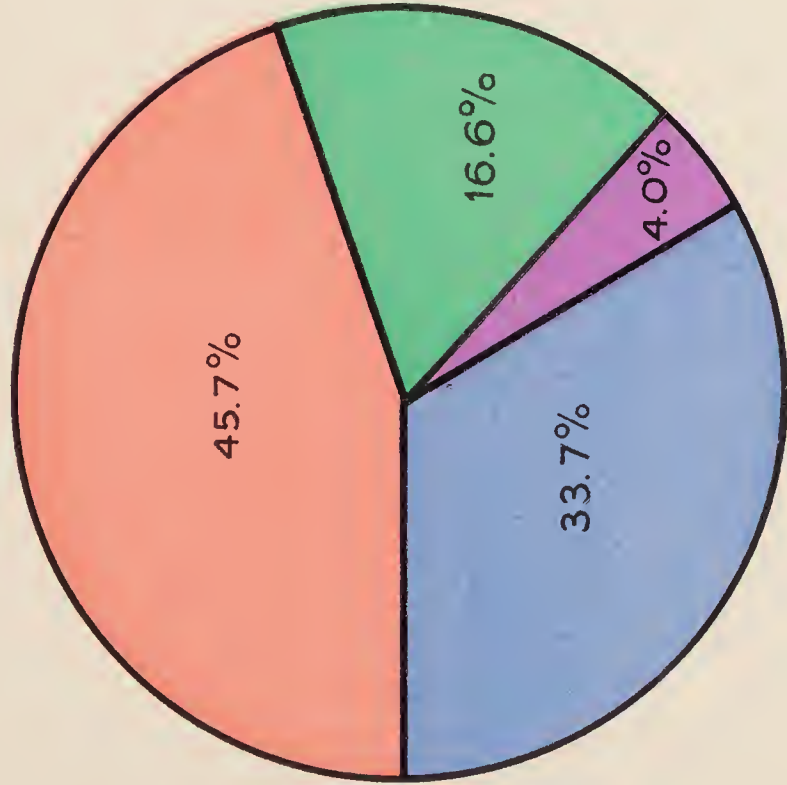
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Appendix "B"—The Changing Pattern of Midwifery.	



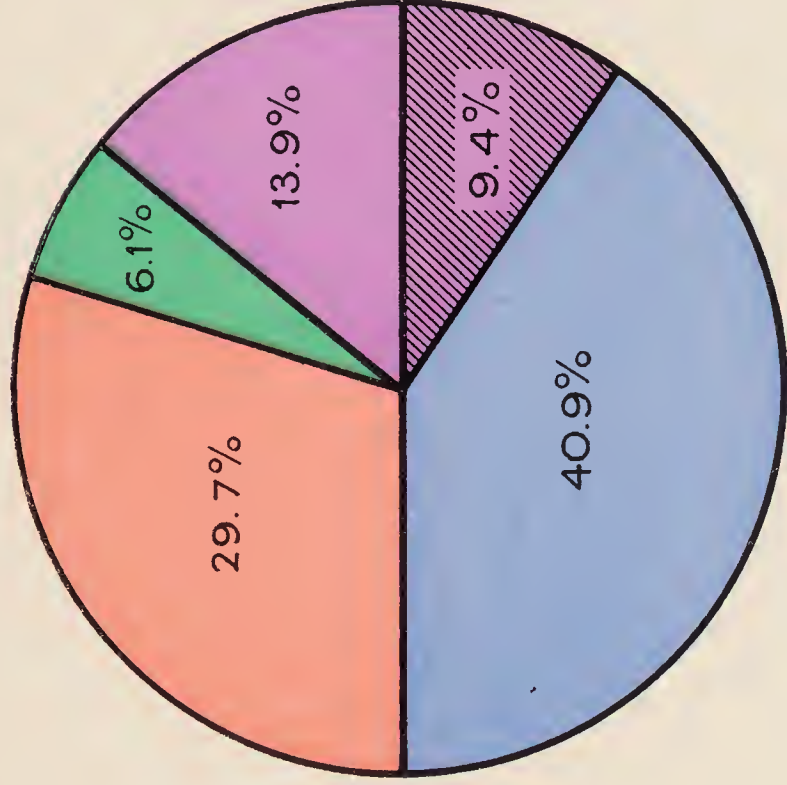


THE CHANGING PATTERN OF MIDWIFERY IN WIGAN.

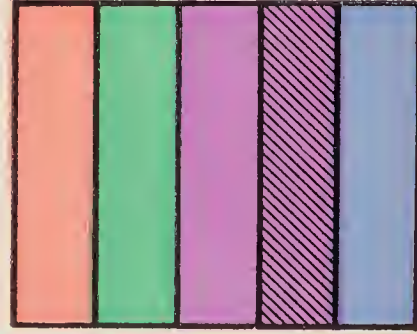
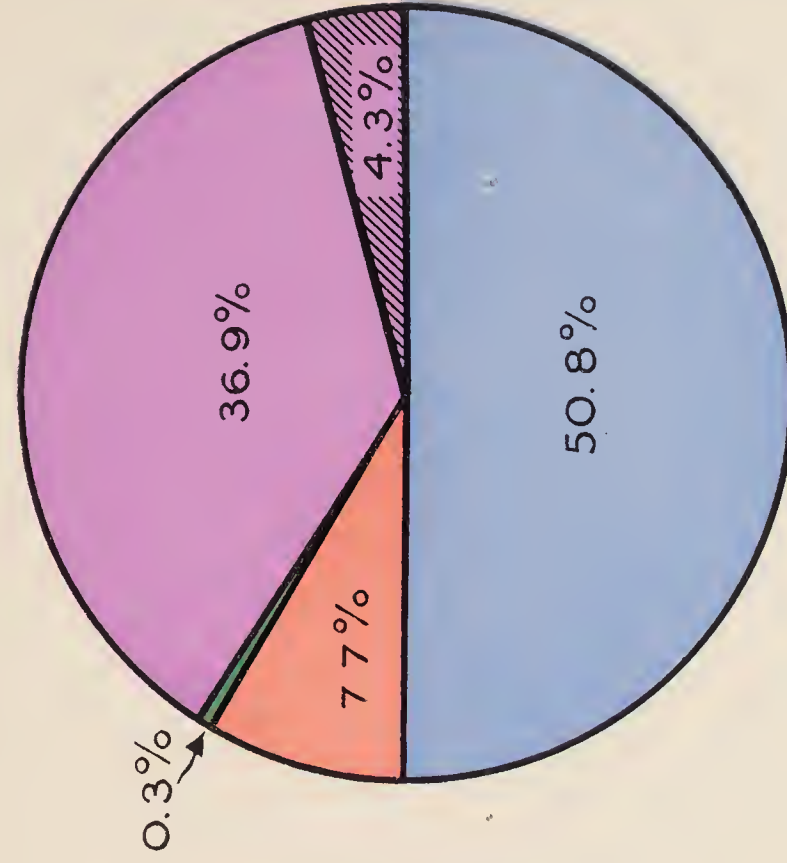
1945



1950



1955



Cases undertaken by midwife (No doctor engaged).

Cases undertaken by midwife with doctor called in (Medical aid).

Cases in which doctor was engaged but did not attend at birth.

Cases in which doctor was engaged and attended at birth (figures for 1950 and 1955 only).

Births in institutions.







